

BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Now, gracious Lord, thine arm reveal,
And make thy glory known,
Now, let us all thy presence feel,
And soften hearts of stone.

From all the guilt of former sin,
May mercy set us free,
And let the year we now begin,
Begin and end with thee.

Send down thy Spirit from above,
That saints may love thee more,
And sinners now may learn to love,
Who never loved before.

And when before thee we appear,
In our eternal home,
May growing numbers worship here,
And praise thee in our room.

-John Newton

MEETING THE ENEMY

We do not know what the new year holds for us, but one thing that is certain is that we will have to deal with the enemy of our souls. Our enemy has been described in various ways. He is the devil, Satan, a dragon, and a serpent as well as an angel of light and the master deceiver. He may depart for a season but he will be back. Entering the new year we must be prepared for the battle before us.

The sixth chapter of Nehemiah offers some tools to help us meet the thrusts of the enemy. Our enemy is wily just as the enemies that Nehemiah had to face as he led in restoring the walls of Jerusalem. His enemies used various ploys to keep him from the work.

The first thrust was the threat of warfare against the city while the walls were still broken down. That threat was met with half of the people working on the wall while the other half were prepared to battle the enemy. The enemy did not advance any further when he understood that the Jews were prepared for the battle. We must be prepared for the head-on onslaught of the devil by having at hand the weapons that will defeat him. These weapons are not physical but spiritual. The Word of God, prayer, fellowship, and unity cause the enemy to retreat.

Although this battle was won, the enemy came back. They attacked him in other ways

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than by a direct head-on pitched battle. The direct battle is easy to recognize, but Satan has other ways of bringing the battle to us.

Nehemiah's enemies sent messages to him asking him to meet with them to discuss the situation. Nehemiah saw through their ploy. He knew they wanted to divert him from the work, while they talked. They may have used the occasion of meeting away from Jerusalem to kill Nehemiah. He refused to leave the work to confer with those who wished only to hinder the project. We must not be diverted from the task before us.

After he refused to meet with them, they sent a letter to Nehemiah that contained various false charges against him. They accused him of building the walls of Jerusalem so he could rebel against the Persian Emperor and set himself up as the King of Judah. They accused him of directing the teachers to ordain him king through their prophecies. Nehemiah knew that he was there at the direction of the Emperor. God had moved the heart of the heathen ruler to give material aid and sufficient political power to

Nehemiah to accomplish the task before him. The enemy is prepared to make false accusations against us. He will use other people to spread gossip, lies and conjecture about our activities. He will charge us with crimes and inappropriate behavior so we will be distracted from the task we have been given. We must make sure our activities are divinely ordained, then press on.

When these false charges did not dissuade him from the work, the enemy prepared a different approach. He was called to the home of a prophet. When the prophet advised him to protect himself by hiding in the Temple, Nehemiah perceived this was false advice. The prophet had been corrupted by the enemy so he would give errant advice. The devil will try to dissuade us from our godly service by giving us wrong information and advice. Many misinterpret the Word and advise following the wisdom of the world rather than the wisdom of God. This is another device of the devil to keep us from the task. He does not want us to build and strengthen the walls of separation just as Nehemiah's enemies

did not want him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. As an angel of light, Satan works at deceiving us.

Another device used to slow the work was lack of unity. Many of the leaders, who should have been at the forefront of the enterprise, had been compromised by the enemy. Because of entangling alliances with the enemy leaders, many of the leaders of Judah were opposed to Nehemiah. They continued to praise the enemy and to lessen the threat that he represented. Division within the leadership kept the work from fully prospering.

As we see some of the enemy's methods of hindering

the work of Nehemiah, we can take warning concerning our enemy's methods in hindering us. Knowing of his devices should prepare us to overcome them. We need to take a stand as firm as Nehemiah's. We need to use the appropriate weapons to defeat our enemy. We must be prepared to begin, continue and finish the work that we have been given to do.

At the beginning of this new year, are you prepared to meet the enemy's devices? Are you determined to build the walls of separation, the ways of service and to rekindle Brethren love? Happy New Year.

M.C.Cook

OUR MOST IMPORTANT WORK

Hebrews 4:11, "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

II Peter 1:10, "...give diligence to make our calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"

John 6:27, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life..."

The Bible tells us that physical labor is important and good, and by it we feed our families and give to those who are needy. But it is not our most important work. We are told to visit the widows and orphans. This is a necessary work, but it is not our most important work. All the many commands in the scripture must take a back seat to it, even though they are all

important, and we must follow after the fulfillment of God's commandments. Our families, our jobs, all that we hold dear in this life must come in second place to seeing to it that our soul is secure. We cannot win another soul; we cannot do any good or help another without first anchoring our soul to the Solid Rock.

Soon as I heard my Father say,
"Ye children, seek my grace,"
My heart replied without delay,
"I seek my Father's face."

Ephesians deals with the three postures of the Christian. The first posture is found in chapter 2, verse 6, "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." We must establish and maintain a relationship with God first, before anything else is done. We cannot walk or stand without first sitting with Him in heavenly places. No excuse will be entertained. There is really no reason to do anything else first. In Matthew, chapter 6, Jesus compels many to follow Him but is met with many and varied ex-

cuses. "Let me first go bury my father", or "Let me go do other ordinary things in life such as everyone else does." Christ responded by saying, "Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." (Verse 22) Those things need to be done, but following Jesus must be first in our thinking and in our acting.

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my only hope on thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.

Hebrews 4:10, "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."

What is first in your life? Perhaps you have "joined church" and many things in your life changed. But did you put Christ first? You confessed Christ before men the day you were baptized, but how about today? Do you seek Him daily? Do you labor to enter into that rest? Or, are you laboring to keep your head above debt? Is "Christ in you" your only hope of Glory?

Brother Lynn H. Miller

AN OVERVIEW OF COLLOSSIANS

As we begin the study of Colossians in our adult classes it is important to ask several questions that help us understand its message. Why was this book written? What were the circumstances and issues that God's people faced at this time? Attempting to answer such questions is not just an intellectual exercise in gaining knowledge. Rather, our purpose is to apply what we learn to circumstances and issues in our own day that are similar. While we are separated by several thousand years of history and changing cultures many of the issues are the result of our all too human condition. Our humanity is a constant from age to age. So, as we begin the study of Colossians we are not only learning about those we read about but about ourselves and our own time.

The city of Colosse was once a very important city. Along with the nearby cities of Hierapolis and Laodicea they dominated this area of Phrygia. Laodicea was an important commercial center with strong banking and textile industries. Hierapolis attracted many visitors to her hot water spas that occurred naturally from underground sources.

Her cold water springs were believed to have many medicinal benefits. At one time Colosse was equal in importance to the other two cities. By the time Paul wrote to the church there, the city had declined in importance and lost much of its former glory. While ruins from the other two cities are still visible today the exact location of Colosse is not known.

The gospel was most likely introduced to the Colossians through the ministry of the church in Ephesus about 100 miles west of Colosse. The best evidence is that Paul never actually visited Colosse. Writing from his imprisonment, most likely in Rome, Paul says in Colossians 2:1, "For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh." This certainly suggests a lack of any first hand acquaintance with them though it could simply be a reference to those whom he had never met. The best evidence is his silence. Paul invariably makes reference in his letters to his ministry in the churches he visited.

The nature of Paul's conflict

with them is their Christology. This is not a word used very frequently amongst us. It simply means how someone describes the importance of Jesus. This description is about the significance of the work Christ did and the office he came to fulfill. Colossians represents Paul's greatest Christological understanding. It is Paul's response to the heresy that was developing in the Colossian church that diminished Christ's work and office. This heresy threatened the understanding of who Jesus is for several centuries.

This heresy is called Gnosticism. The issues, Paul addresses in his letter, are the result of Gnostic influences. He was not simply responding to a variety of ills within the Colossian church. Rather he was responding to the philosophical beliefs and practices that had some similar appearances to Christianity. These similarities obscured fundamental differences of understanding. These differences became obvious when there is a clear understanding of who Jesus is. That is why Paul labors so intensely to paint a complete portrait of Christ and his role in our lives.

Our view of Christ is ob-

scured when competing ideologies begin to make inroads into our faith and practice. A blending of these beliefs eventually results in something less than biblical faith. This blending is called syncretism. It is a battle that God's people have fought throughout the Bible Age. Idolatry and other perversions of the faith are the result when the battle is not fought. It is one we still need to fight today. Paul recognized the danger and willingly contended for the faith delivered to him and the rest of the apostles.

Today the dangers are no less real than in Paul's time. With the many available avenues of communication we have access to an abundance of teachers and materials. Those that appeal to us most are ones that clearly portray themselves as firmly biblical in foundation. Yet every biblical teacher or ministry references their interpretation of the Bible through the lens of some particular understanding. It may be through some contemporary teaching ministry such as Dobson or Gothard. It may be through the lens of classical Protestant Reformers such as Luther or Calvin or some other historic movement in

church history. All, including ourselves, have such reference points.

In our recent Leadership Conference the theme was our biblical identity as Brethren. Certainly our self-understanding as a church has been strongly influenced by the Anabaptist and Pietist movements that preceded or were current with the beginnings of the Brethren. Yet there is one other aspect that was mentioned at our Leadership Conference that is also true of the earlier Anabaptist movement. That aspect is our apostolic understanding of the faith.

An apostolic understanding simply accepts the understanding that the apostles' teaching is normative for what it means to be a Christian. Part of the litmus test for the New Testament canon was the authenticity of its apostolic origins. Did an apostle write it? Anything written by Paul or Peter or John fulfills that prerequisite. Did someone who was closely associated with an apostle and faithfully passed on that apostolic teaching write it? Luke and Mark are examples of answers to that question. Since anyone who claims to be biblical in foundation must therefore depend on those very same

apostles where is the conflict?

Most biblical commentators have no problem believing that what the apostles wrote is normative for our understanding of Christianity. Where the greatest deviation takes place is in the practice and application of apostolic teaching. No one argues that Paul taught that a head covering was necessary. They will argue that it is no longer necessary for many reasons. Most biblical scholars recognize that the early church held a non-resistant understanding. They will argue that circumstances make such an application no longer tenable for modern Christianity. The list can grow quite long in deviating from apostolic teaching.

As Brethren we must continue to let the biblical/apostolic understanding be the plumb line for our teaching and practices. It is the lens through which we interpret the Bible and our practices. As long as we hold fast to such an understanding we can weather the storms of ideologies, philosophies, and spiritual counterfeits that swirl around us. We rest on the very same foundation on which the church was established.

Brother Phil Franklin

ARE YOUR MINISTERS BORING?

Are the ministers boring where you attend? Are you sure it is them or is it you? Are you going to church expecting to hear from God or to listen to a boring sermon?

Look at yourself. Examine your attitude. Are you preparing yourself for worship? Are you preparing yourself to receive the Word of God? Are you asking God to prepare your heart to receive the Word?

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Eph. 6:10-13

Are you praying for the ministers and Sunday school teachers? Do you read the Sunday School lesson before arriving at church? Do you study the Sunday School lesson?

Take a notepad and pen

along with your Bible to church. Take notes. Follow along in your Bible. This will help you to concentrate on the sermon. Look at the minister, make eye contact with the minister, have a joyful face. This lets the minister know that you are listening and interested in what God is telling you.

I have found that the closer I sit to the front of a church, the better I can concentrate on the sermon. When I set in the back, I absorb less and am easily distracted. When there are distracting noises – like a baby crying, continue to look at the minister and concentrate on listening to him. The baby's crying moves to the background noise and you will not miss God's sentence. As soon as you take your eyes off the minister, your train of thought (which should have been on God's message to you) is gone. You will not be able to concentrate on the sermon until the baby stops crying.

Note that the sermons do not seem to be so "boring". I know. I have been there. Sometimes I find I am not receiving any spiritual food. I examine myself and find that I am allowing Satan to distract me. I

also have not prepared myself to receive God's Word.

Are you a good example? If you sit in the last three to four rows of benches, where do you expect your children to sit? Your children say, "I am not sitting up front. Mom and Dad do not. I am not sitting in front of them."

I personally do not like to see church officials sitting in the back half of the church. How can you be a good example sitting back there? People (rather young people and children) are watching you. Examples are in front so others can learn by watching. Oh, they are not to be watching you? Who did you watch?

Do you expect visitors to come to your church? When you go to another church, you do not want to sit in the front of the church. Should you not keep the back rows for visitors? When you go to a concert, ballgame, seminar, everyone wants to be in front. Why is it different when you go to church?

"My son, attend to my

words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." Prov. 4:20-27

I am sure the ministers will appreciate seeing the front two thirds of the benches full instead of the front and back with a lot of empty space in the middle.

Let us support our ministers. Move closer, be attentive, and follow along in the Word. Some day that may be you standing up there. Think about it!

In Christian love,
Sister Beaty Sweitzer

TWO SPECIAL LOVEFEASTS

The hymn had begun and we filed into the dining room at the Dallas Center church to par-

take of the first lovefeast the Dunkard Brethren have had in conjunction with the Leadership

Conference. As I walked through the door and viewed the room full of tables spread with the lovefeast meal, feelings of emotion welled up inside of me. The scene made me feel like I would indeed be in heavenly places that evening.

There were 182 that surrounded those tables and I thrilled at the thought that I could share in this communion service with brothers and sisters from across the brotherhood. The singing sounded beautiful as we began the sacred service with voices harmonizing as a mighty chorus.

My thoughts went back to when Jesus ate the Lord's supper with His disciples in the upper room and He told them He would not drink again until that day when He drinks in the kingdom of God. Matthew 26:29, "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

My thoughts then spanned the time until we are gathered at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb when the Lord girds Himself and serves us. (Luke 12:37) We will be with the redeemed of all ages and I let my imagina-

tion go to picturing me being around the tables with saints of old as well as loved ones who have gone on before. Tears welled up and spilled down my cheeks as I thought of how unworthy we are to be partaking of such an awesome event, but it's all made possible through the Blood of Jesus.

As we went through the feet washing, where I washed the feet of a dear sister who had just walked away from the freshly dug grave of her father just a few days before, I thought again of the great reunion there will be someday, and also of what a privilege it was to serve this sister in such a way. I looked across the tables and thought of how special it was to see people from Pennsylvania, California, Indiana, and every other state that was represented but then I thought how wonderful it will be to look across the table and see Mary, Sarah, Priscilla, Dorcas, Lydia, and all the other Believers from the Bible who are waiting in the great beyond.

The meal followed, the unbroken circle of love, the passing of the bread and the cup and my heart was overwhelmed with love and gratitude for the Church and for each brother and

sister that make up the Body of Christ. What a blessing and privilege we have to walk through life together, to worship together, to bear each other's burdens, and to sit in heavenly places together. I went away from the service blessed, thankful, and thrilled.

Just seven days later I found myself again around the communion tables. Again, it was a memorable experience and I had tears (just below the surface or spilling down my cheeks) from the beginning of the service to the end. This time I was in the dining room at the school at our mission in New Mexico. The newly established Juniper Hills Congregation was going to have their first lovefeast service and it was well attended.

There were 63 around the tables, and that included Delbert and Connie Swihart, Herman Jamison, and Dan, Darlene, Tiffany, and Tyreal Chupp from Kansas. The Torreon board of directors and their families were also there, but otherwise, it was the members of the Juniper Hills congregation. What a blessing to see so many Navajos in attendance, and for a number of them it was their first time.

The mission has experi-

enced some real revival this year after some intense spiritual warfare and it is a beautiful thing to see God having the victory and His Church growing! I noticed some of the staff were in tears as they witnessed the scene and took part in another meaningful lovefeast service. They had many memories going through their minds, no doubt, and this was one of life's mountaintops after some deep dark valleys.

One of the Navajo members was asked to read John 13. Tears again flowed as we saw a young brother who Satan had tried so hard to claim as his, now standing up at lovefeast and reading the Scriptures, clearly identified as one of the Redeemed. I thought of how Jesus had told Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat, But I have prayed for thee...." Luke 22:31. I knew that Satan wanted him so badly but Jesus had (and still is) praying for him. As the brother read, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them," I couldn't help but notice how happy he looked and how happy we all felt to have him there partaking in this sacred service.

I don't know of a time I was so moved during a lovefeast service. I was so keenly aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit and it was such a special thrill to me. I had just told the women over Leadership Conference when we had a time of sharing that I had felt like I had a rather "dry" year. I felt low on emotion and feeling and so often longed for a manifestation of the presence of the Lord and to *feel* His nearness. I know the Christian experience isn't based on *feelings* but sometimes it's real confirmation to have some feelings. As we sat around that table I *felt* the presence of the Lord in a way that I hadn't in a long time. Gratefulness to the Lord to be able to experience what was in my heart and tears flowed freely as it again became so vividly clear to me how much God loved me and how much He **gave** for me to be able to have eternal life.

It hit me again anew the power that is in the Blood. It is

the Blood that washed away my sin and won the victory at Calvary, that causes Satan to flee and be powerless. Oh, the wonderful power of the Blood!

Again, as I looked around the table I thought of the joy in heaven where the Redeemed of all ages, people of all races and skin color, will surround the tables and we will be the Blood Washed Throng. Oh, we have so much to look forward to!

I am so thankful to be among the Redeemed and to be able to take part in services like I did those two weekends. I pray that I would ever be more mindful of how indebted I am to a Lord, Who has done so much for me. I was unworthy of all that He had done for me.

May we all strive to be faithful that someday we all, indeed, can commune together with the Lord in Heaven.

Unworthy but grateful,
Sister Sally Meyers

SMILE AND THE WORLD SMILES WITH YOU

Richard W. Bowers

"Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, nobody knows my sorrow." Is that a fact? Well, nobody knows the sorrow I've

seen, either. But I'm not going to make your life miserable because I have my problems.

Think how many have lost

their smile and sense of humor. They live in the "valley of the shadow of death." The smile has rolled over and is upside down. It looks like all the sorrows of life have taken refuge in the crescent moon it has created.

Take an inventory of yourself. When was the last time you greeted someone with a genuine smile or had a "gully-washer" of a laugh? Have you forgotten how wonderful it feels? And it can be the very answer to your problem. These remarks are not made to minimize the seriousness of your problems and the sorrow that has entered your life. They are said to alert you to stop the whining and complaining, which are getting you absolutely nowhere.

Many, many things cannot be changed. There is no answer. That is the way life is. We were not assured when we opened our baby blue eyes for the first time that the world was going to be a bowl full of luscious red cherries. By now you have found that your bowl has had its share of pits – and so has everyone you know.

So what do you do? Make the best of any given situation. Accept the fate that has been handed you on a cheap paper plate, and don't spill it on your

shirt while you are trying to eat from it.

Some of the people you meet who appear to be the happiest people you know may be the saddest in their hearts. I could mention a number of comedians whose humor causes us to scream with laughter who have hidden a heart that is broken, disappointments too sorrowful to reveal, and losses whose depths can never be fathomed. But that is why they have to compensate for all of this with laughter and a presence that lifts the lives of other people.

Stop trying to change things for which there are no solutions. Determine to be strong, courageous and cheerful. Dispose of your "pits" and be thankful for the "bits" you have had to enjoy.

"I can't smile!" I've heard so often. Yes you can and you must. Don't be buried with a scowl on your face for everyone to remember, which might even scare the devil, but to the last breath, let the peace of God help you to the end of your journey. Smile. Try it. You'll love it and so will everyone else.

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Esther Blocher

TEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

Continued from December 2005 Issue

Principle Two: Take Believer's Authority

From the first day of dealing with this case we based our authority to do the work on Luke 9:1-2: "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick." Christ conferred both power and authority upon the twelve founding apostles. The same was given to the seventy, indicating that the Church was empowered for the ministry of deliverance.

That authority has never been revoked. It only ceases in the face of unbelief. The history of revival shows the association of a pure, Spirit-filled Church and the credentials to deliver the bond in Christ's name. When the Church is on fire with the flame of the Spirit, the power of first-century Christianity is once again freely exercised.

In another scenario, Jesus cast the evil spirit out of a man in the synagogue in Capernaum. The demon cried

out and Jesus commanded him to be quiet. Jesus not only had authority to expel the demon — He had complete authority over its actions. The Scriptures go on to say that the spirit convulsed him. There are four other incidents where unclean spirits convulsed their victims when Jesus commanded them to leave (Mark 1:26; 9:26; Luke 9:39; 9:42).

We found that the authority of the believer follows a similar pattern. When demons would become noisy, making it difficult to deal with the person, it was possible to command them in Christ's name to be quiet. The more we examined the biblical accounts of Jesus casting out demons, the more we realized the importance of placing our trust in the finished work of Christ and in the present demonstration of His power. Rather than being distracted by the manifestations of the demons, we persisted in using the authority vested in the Name above all names to control the situation.

This power and authority to cast out demons is not inherent

in the Christian but is derived from Christ by faith. Jesus warned the early disciples not to rejoice in their authority over demons but to rejoice that their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20). In order to maintain a proper perspective, contemporary disciples too must focus on Christ and our relationship with Him through biblical salvation. We are best equipped to take authority over demons when our hearts are overflowing with joy at the triumph of Christ crucified, risen and enthroned in glory. Christians do best in any battle when they stand alongside the winner, Christ Jesus the Lord.

The Power of Jesus' Name

No study of the biblical method of exorcism, including believers' authority, would be complete without a consideration of the power of Jesus' name. Jesus told His disciples they would cast out demons in His name. However, its use is theological, not methodological.

The name of Christ represents His character and His power. It is glorious in the eyes of heaven, awesome in the eyes of saints, and most fearful thing in the universe in the eyes of the

powers of darkness. His name is one of a kind, with no challenger among men or angels or demons. It is no small matter to invoke the name of Christ. But I repeat, the use of His name is theological, not methodological.

Satan also recognizes the power in that name and, with a wave of false teachings so pervasive today, it frequently happens that spirits will give their name as Jesus and/or Christ. Nonetheless, it is a false spirit speaking. Confronting the spirit with the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High God will immediately expose the evil spirit for what it is.

The authority to exorcise evil spirits in the name of Christ is conferred upon believers for His glory. Such a supernatural act witnesses to the supreme power of the glorified Son of God. All of the combined intelligence of mankind could not produce such a cure for human bondage.

Although a human instrument is used, exorcism is a divine work. The Christian who engages in this ministry must do so with humility and total dependence on Christ. Using the name of Jesus Christ to cast out demons is a sacred trust.

Neither is the name of Christ

to be used as a magic formula. His name is given as the credential of heaven for the work of ministry to the bound. Let us not be mistaken: The demons know that name and they know its significance. It is also evident that they know when that name is being used by those not worthy of ministering for the Lord Jesus Christ. The itinerant Jewish exorcists in Ephesus attempted to invoke Jesus' name and were overcome by the demon-possessed person. They had no personal relationship to Jesus and therefore had no right to use His name (Acts 19:13-17).

There is something about ministering in the name of Christ that puts our Christian profession on the line. It is a great object lesson in spiritual integrity. If we undertake to walk on the borderland of the supernatural we must do so with a pure heart. The glory of Christ must be the end in view.

Philippians 2:5-11 was read aloud many times during those early deliverance sessions. A major emphasis in this explanation of Christ's incarnation is the prominence of His name. The Father has exalted Him above every name in heaven, on earth and in the realm of spirits. At

His name all are to bow, be they human beings or angels or demons. Since the spirit world is aware of the power of His name, those who deal with that world should keep in mind the glorious power and influence of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. His blessed name is a refuge for the saint in warfare and at the same time a mighty weapon in the battle.

Binding and Loosing

Another powerful weapon given to Christian believers is the authority to bind and loose. One who undertakes the ministry of deliverance should remember that though Satan is a defeated foe he *is* a "strong man." Jesus called the attention of His followers to this fact and instructed them in how to deal with it. "Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house" (Matthew 12:29). The idea of loosing is implied in this verse when the strong man is bound and his goods plundered. Plundering is the equivalent of loosing. It sets the goods free from his control. However, Jesus clearly states the prin-

ciples of loosing in Matthew 18:18.

Loosing one who lives under the bondage of evil spirits requires the presence and power of the Stronger Man. In the name of the strongest, our Lord Jesus Christ, we have authority to bind the strong man and loose the victim. This is not an empty ritual, but the application of Christ's victory by faith to a given situation of spiritual bondage. The blood-bought and Spirit-born have through Christ the power to bind and loose. While there are other usages of the idea of binding and loosing, in the context of Matthew 12 it refers to exorcism.

There have been many times when it was necessary to bind the spirit because it insisted on violent manifestations or other means to hinder the deliverance process. Others demons that came on the scene as reinforcements were also bound. But the worker must renounce any notion that he or she has the power to bind and loose. It is an authority exercised by faith in Christ's eternal triumph over all the powers of evil.

At the very beginning of the deliverance process it is helpful to pray for the binding of the

strong man and the loosing of the victim. Christ is glorified by the dividing of the spoils of such a battle. Every true deliverance is a powerful witness to the reality of Christ's resurrection, ascension and enthronement in glory. The Spirit-filled Christian, by the authority of Christ, *can* strip the strong man and spoil his goods. What a great miracle takes place when a captive soul is thus set free!

The Power of the Holy Spirit

A third aspect of our authority as believers is the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ's opponents accused Him of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub. He countered with the argument that Satan does not cast out Satan. If he did, his kingdom would collapse. He then asked by whom the Jews cast out demons and revealed that He cast out demons by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:28). Christ said that to cast out demons by the Holy Spirit indicated that the kingdom of God had come to them.

If the perfect, sinless, divine Son of God cast out demons by the Holy Spirit, then it must be assumed if His followers cast out demons they must also do

so by the Holy Spirit. Without the power of the Spirit of God, the ministry of deliverance will fail. Those who engage in it must remember that they are only servants carrying out the Master's orders with the Master's credentials.

Principle Three: Count on Divine Protection

While engaged in the work of deliverance, there is danger in giving into the suggestion of the enemy that there could be devastating consequences to this ministry. During the long days and nights of this particular case, there were times when the workers were ready to give up rather than face possible personal danger. Once again, it was the Word of God that quieted our hearts.

The most assuring passage was Luke 10:17-20. The seventy disciples sent out by Jesus to preach the gospel, heal the sick and cast out demons returned to report this experience. "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to

tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

The danger is not in carrying out a ministry of deliverance, but in doing so with inadequate preparation and with a spirit of presumption. Christ provides for the protection of His people against the strategies of Satan and his forces. Christians need to remember the truth that greater is the One who is in them than the one (the devil) who is in the world (1 John 4:4). The apostle John in his first epistle said, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." (5:18)

The regenerate person, by faith and obedience, maintains a pure heart, giving no ground to the enemy. John Bengel says in his treatment of First John 5:18, "The regenerate is not ruined from without. The wicked one approaches as a fly does to a candle; but he does not injure him, he does not even touch

him." Christ is our shield and defense. In His loving care it is safe to minister deliverance in His exalted name.

It must, however, be remembered that to undertake this work with unconfessed sin and deliberate disobedience in one's life leaves one open to the enemy's attack. To engage the battle with curiosity about the demons and what they say or do is also dangerous. Equally foolhardy is attempting the ministry in one's own strength. Precautions are necessary because the powers of darkness are very powerful. A. W. Tozer warned that "Satan has been in the business of intimidating and silencing and oppressing the people of God for a long, long time." But one thing God's children can be sure: The Lord Jesus Christ is all-powerful and in Him is total victory.

Another dimension of the believer's protection against the attacks of the enemy is the armor of God. Many times when our bodies were numb from weariness, our minds dulled by hours of intense warfare, what comfort and uplift came from reading Ephesians 6:10-20! To claim by faith each piece of the armor changed the odds very quickly. This passage was a

fresh reminder of the nature of the problem. We were not dealing with human flesh and blood, but with experienced, powerful, clever, subtle, persistent forces intent upon evil. It was good to know that the victory over them is based on truth, righteousness, gospel peace, salvation, the Word of God and faith. It is not some new insight that brings deliverance, but the consistent affirmation of the foundational truth of Christ's redemption.

There is a strange paradox in Paul's account of the armor of Christ's warriors. In Ephesians 6:15, Paul uses the phrase "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." How did the word "peace" get into the discussion of a foot soldier's armor? The answer to that question teaches us what it means to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ. To put it simply – God's best soldier is a person of peace. He or she enjoys peace with God and the peace of God. The practical result of that spiritual relationship is perfect inner peace through Christ in the heat of the worst battle.

To be continued
Brother Keith M. Bailey

THE BEATITUDES

S. N. McCann

They Will Do Righteousness

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matt. 5:6

To be righteous implies the doing of righteousness; the keeping of the law of God. "Righteousness as used in the Scriptures and theology, in which it chiefly occurs, is nearly equivalent to holiness. Comprehending holy principles and affections of heart, and conformity of life to the divine law." (Webster) Righteousness here by no means signifies imputed righteousness, but rather the doing of righteousness. "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." I John 2:29. "...he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." I John 3:7. "...whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,...." I John 3:10. The stress is laid upon doing righteousness by the apostle. The man who is righteous by imputation will do righteousness. If a man is not righteous by imputation he may do right in order to become right-

eous, but the road is a hard one and the man is unsaved until he can step out upon the pure righteousness of Christ. The man who is doing right in order to become righteous will never get power to overcome sin, power over the flesh, the world, and Satan along that line. He must earnestly desire personal righteousness, be willing to give up all, that he may become personally righteous, and then give up all merit in what he has done and in what he has sacrificed in order to receive imputed righteousness. The man who is in the church ought not to be there without imputed righteousness. If he has imputed righteousness he is a saved man and will do righteousness because he "hunger and thirsts for righteousness" He will do righteousness because he is righteous by imputation. He will not keep or do the commands of God in order to be saved, but because he is saved, because he is righteous, because he is a child of God. Jewelry and fashionable attire will not be left off in order to be accepted with God, but because

"they hunger and thirst after righteousness." Real hunger and thirst for righteousness implies that a man has had an appetite for personal righteousness created by the great gift of God, imputed righteousness. Without the gift of imputed righteousness, even though church members, the hungering and thirsting is after the world, with its fashions, follies, riches and honors. They who do righteousness are adorned "in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit,..." I Peter 3:3-4. They who do righteousness will not take oaths at all, but their "Yea" will be "Yea" and their "Nay" will be "Nay." Matt. 5:34-37. Women who do righteousness will "adorn themselves...with good works." I Tim. 2:9-10. They who do righteousness will not avenge themselves, will not kill (Rom. 12:19; Matt. 5:21-22; 38-42), will not go to law "before the unjust." I Cor. 6:1. They who do righteousness will give more than the law demands for peace. Matt. 5:40-41. They who do righteousness will "love their enemies, will pray for them which despitefully use you." Matt. 5:44. They that do righteousness will not refuse to wash feet. John 13:14-15.

Women who do righteousness will veil their heads in praying and prophesying, and men who do righteousness will not so veil their heads. I Cor. 11:4-7. They who do righteousness will forgive all hatred, spite, and offense. Matt. 6:12-14.

They who do righteousness will call for the elders of the church when they are sick and have them pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:14. They who do righteousness will "salute one another with a holy kiss." Rom. 16:16. They who do righteousness will not "muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn." I Cor. 9:9-12, will not heap to themselves earthly riches. Matt. 7:19. They who do righteousness will obey the command to go and teach all nations. Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15. They who do righteousness will not be "fashioned according to this world." Rom. 12:1-3.

They who do righteousness will not only do the plain, written commands, but they will do the right, they will do the clearly-implied right, they will do according to the principles of the Gospel. There are many clearly-defined principles of duty for

which there is no direct "Thus saith the Lord." They who do righteousness will obey the spirit of the law as well as its letter.

If a person does righteousness, he will not play cards, he will not gamble, he will not race horses, he will not go to theaters, balls, dances, and other questionable places of amusement; neither will he refuse to conform to the church in the order of plain dressing. The person who does righteousness is not looking for privilege to gratifying the flesh, but for the glory of God both in himself and in others. The person who does righteousness is not bent on having everything that he can lawfully obtain. For the sake of others he will regard many lawful privileges inexpedient. The one who does righteousness will "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lust thereof." Rom. 13:14.

The man who does righteousness will make religion a first principle, a primary thing in his life; he will seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33), and not the world and its vainglory. I John 2:15-17. Paul clearly defines the principle that governs one who does righteousness, in the

eighth chapter of I Corinthians. There may be things that are lawful for one to do, places that are lawful for one to go, things that are lawful for one to wear, yet for the sake of others the doer of righteousness will deny himself. The doer of righteousness will not "sin against Christ" in insisting upon even lawful privileges. If one gives up only what is unlawful, where is he going a single step beyond the good moral man, where is he sacrificing for the good of others, where is he showing any of the real Christ life? The willingness to deny self, to forego lawful pleasure and lawful privilege, is one of the evidences that "old things are passed away." II Cor. 5:17. Who would think of taking any unlawful privileges, of stepping upon any forbidden ground, of disobeying a plain "Thus saith the Lord"? The plain, positive commands are duties enjoined because they are law. It is not the privilege of any man who wills to do God's will to break one of his least commands. The obeying of them is not "to lay down our lives for the brethren" (I John 3:16), but only doing positive duty. The giving up of the unlawful must be done even for ourselves. It

is the giving up of lawful privileges for the good of others that makes us "All things to all men," that we may by all means save some. I Cor. 9:22-23. The giving up of lawful privileges for the good of others is Christlike, it is apostolic, it is Christian, it is the doing of righteousness.

They who do righteousness will not sin knowingly and presumptuously. They will not and can not sin willfully. They will hate sin because it is contrary to their newborn nature, contrary

to their appetite, hence loathsome to them. They will bitterly repent of all sins of ignorance, or of unguarded weakness as soon as they know they have failed. The cry of the doer of righteousness is ever:

"Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to thee,
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me.
Still all my cry shall be
Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to thee."

BIBLE STORY

A SHIPWRECK

Acts 27

Have you ever sailed in a large ship on the ocean? Sometimes I think I would like to. Two thousand years ago the ships weren't as large as they are now. They didn't have big engines to push them through the water but were driven by the wind with sails. Sailing a ship in those days was dangerous, especially in the winter when the storms were severe. Many ships were wrecked on the rocks in the storms.

The apostle Paul was put on a ship when he was a prisoner and was sent from the city of

Ceasarea to Rome, a distance of nearly two thousand miles. There were two hundred and seventy six people on Paul's ship so it was a large one for that time. After sailing many days they came to an island called Crete. Paul advised the captain to stay there for the winter, saying that it had been revealed to him that the ship and their lives would be in danger. Because Paul was but another prisoner, the captain didn't regard his advice and when a mild wind came from the south, they set sail for a harbor called Phenice.

It wasn't long till the wind began to blow hard, and soon a great storm was upon them so that they could not control the ship. It was a tempest and fearing the boat would fall apart, the captain had chains fastened around the ship to hold it together. In three days they came close to a small island where the water was shallow. Fearing they might get stuck in the quicksand, they set sail to get away from the island and threw out everything they could spare to lighten the ship.

For many days the storm continued and it became dark so that they could not see the sun or stars. They were lost and all

hope of being saved was gone. Then Paul spoke to the men, "Be of good cheer." For God had revealed to him that no lives would be lost even though the ship would be wrecked and they would be cast upon an island.

This all came to pass as Paul said. The ship was caught in the sand and broken in two by the waves. Those that could swim jumped into the sea and swam ashore; the others took boards or broken pieces of the ship and floated to land. This was a great experience for Paul who knew that, "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord."

Brother Rudy Cover

OBITUARIES

HAROLD H. KEGERREIS

Brother Harold Kegerreis was born January 26, 1935 in Mt. Aetna, Pennsylvania and passed away July 21, 2005 at his Bethel Township home. He was the son of the late James and Amy (Gibbel) Kegerreis. At an early age he became a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church and served as a deacon for thirty-seven years.

Surviving are his wife Fern (Bernheisel) Kegerreis; daughter, Sheila (Paul, Jr.) Noecker; son, Leslie (Tammy) Kegerreis; six grandchildren, Matthew and Logan Noecker and Jeremy, Melissa, Erica and Zachary Kegerreis; brothers, David (Rhoda) Kegerreis and Marlin Kegerreis; sisters, Fern (Verling) Wolfe, Darlene (Marlin) Marks, Jean (Lamar) Keeney, Maxine (Kenneth) Wilkerson.

Funeral services were held July 25, 2005 at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church with Elders Frank Shaffer and Paul Hartz officiating. Burial was in the adjoining cemetery.

The family wishes to thank all the brothers and sisters across the brotherhood for the kindness shown during Harold's affliction and since his passing. Prayers, cards, gifts, flowers and food were all very much appreciated.

God saw you were getting tired,
And a cure was not to be.
So He put his arms around you
And whispered, "Come to me."

With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

DALE NEWMAN

Brother Richard "Dale" Newman was born to Cecil and Neva Newman, April 11, 1932 at Fillmore, Indiana. He attended schools in Fillmore and Green Castle.

Dale was employed at "Allisions" in Indianapolis, a jet engine plant for three years. Then he went to Lonestar Cement plant where he worked in the finish mill for fourteen years. Dale traveled a lot throughout the states on a motor scooter traveling 2,600 miles on one trip. Later he bought a motorcycle and enjoyed much scenery across the country. Working with weights for exercise, was important to him for good health.

November 1969 brought him to California. He was baptized in the Dunkard Brethren Church at Ceres, California in 1969. He served as a deacon since 1978. On May 29, 1970 he and Blanche Wyatt were united in marriage. They bought an acre in Waterford where they made their home. Dale worked for Hershey Chocolate USA, a candy factory, in the general labor departments for twenty-six years until he retired August 1, 1999. Then he enjoyed his yard work and gardening, along with his two black cats, "Sophie" and

"Mitzi" who were always out with him. Another cat "Taffy" was inside and a lot of company also. Dale loved his home and was very happy there. His love for the Lord and the work of the Church was very important to him and he remained faithful until his death on October 14, 2005. He was 73 years, 6 months, 3 days of age.

Surviving and left to honor his life is his wife, Blanche of thirty-five years. Dale was loved by his family and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents and a sister, Evelyn June Kendall.

Funeral services were held on October 19, 2005 at Salas Brothers Funeral Chapel, Modesto, California. Brother Henry Walker and Brother Mark Cordrey officiating. Burial was in the Lakewood Memorial Park, Hughson, California.

We want to thank you for cards of comfort, encouragement and especially for your prayers in our behalf.

GOD'S LOVING PROMISE

God hath not promised
 Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
 All our lives through.

God hath not promised
 Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
 Peace without pain.

God hath not promised
 We shall not know
Toil and temptation,
 Trouble and woe.

He hath not told us
 We shall not bear
Many a burden,
 Many a care.

But God hath promised
 Strength for the day,
Rest for the laborer,
 Light for the way.

MARRIAGE

Sis. Sara Beth St. John, daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Donna St. John and Bro. Benjamin J. Short, son of Randy and Deb Short were united in marriage, June 25, 2005 at the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church. Their address is 9168 Co. Rd. 21N, Stryker, OH 43557

NEWS ITEMS**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

For the Pleasant Home Dunkard Brethren Church please send correspondence to:

Elder Henry Walker
12409 Terrace View Ct.
Waterford, CA 95386-9147
209-874-2832

Financial and billing to:

Linda Cordrey
525 W. Grayson Rd.
Modesto, CA 95358

The Pleasant Home Congregation still meets at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, CA 95355. Due to a new subdivision being built on property next to the church, their driveways will close Sharon Road at the Claus Road intersection and eliminate our mailbox.

Sister Carol Walker, Cor.

HART, MICHIGAN

The Hart Congregation will hold a special meeting on the weekend of January 13, 14, 15, 2006. The speaker will be Bro. John Byers of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Come and enjoy this special time together with us.

Sister Anna Powell, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 2006

Feb. 5 – Setting Your Mind to Put on and Put off – Col. 3:1-11

1. Examine thoroughly the first seven words of verse one.
2. Contrast the works of the old man in verse 5 with the works of the new man.

Feb. 12 – Holy Living in Relationships – Col. 3:12-25

1. How do we put on the new man?
2. I John 5:4 tells us how to overcome the world. Discuss being “born of God” and how the new man is put on in the light of this verse.

Feb. 19 – Praying for Open Doors and Living Holy in the World
Col. 4:1-9

1. Discuss ways of drawing others into our fellowship and the part that the Holy Ghost plays.
2. Discuss the idea of living in the world but not being of the world.

Feb. 26 – Fellow Workers for the Kingdom – Col. 4:10-18

1. Discuss the term “fellow prisoner” as found in verse 10. How does it apply to us today?
2. How does this lesson show the importance of fellowship?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 2006

Feb. 5 – The Daughter of Jairus – Mark 5:22-23; 38-43

1. Many come to Jesus for help. Jairus's daughter could not. How well do we intercede on behalf of others?
2. The people thought that the girl was dead. What important lesson can we glean from Jesus raising her up?

Feb. 12 – Our Communications – Matt. 5:33-37; James 3:1-18

1. What (or who) controls our tongue?
2. Discuss at least five reasons why the Christian's tongue should be kept under control at all times.

Feb. 19 – Our Alms Giving – Deut. 15:6-8; Matt. 6:1-4; Matt. 19:21; Luke 11:37-42

1. There is never a question of "if" we do alms, but "when". Discuss their importance.
2. Discuss Matt. 19:21. Did this young man keep all the commandments as he said?

Feb. 26 – Our Forgiveness – Psalms 103; Matt. 6:14-15; Acts 5:31; Eph. 1:6-10; I John 1:9

1. Christ set the example on the cross. How important is it, then, to forgive?
2. Discuss salvation and the part forgiveness plays in it.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXXIV

FEBRUARY, 2006

NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SALVATION

Salvation! O, the joyful sound!
'Tis pleasure to our ears;
A sov'reign balm for ev'ry wound,
A cordial for our fears.

Buried in sorrow and in sin,
At hell's dark door we lay;
But we arise by grace divine
To see a heav'nly day.

Salvation! Let the echo fly
The spacious earth around,
While all the armies of the sky
Conspire to raise the sound.

Salvation! O, thou bleeding Lamb,
To thee the praise belongs!
Salvation shall inspire our hearts,
And dwell upon our tongues.

-Isaac Watts

DEAD MEN WALKING

There has been recent interest in the death penalty. With the executions of a number of death-row prisoners, much discussion has been heard throughout the land about the propriety of the death penalty. During this discussion a number of men who had been convicted of their crimes and had been condemned to death were interviewed. These men either had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment or had been pardoned and released from prison. One, who had escaped death by only a few hours, was referred to as a "dead man walking". He eventually was pardoned and freed from prison although he was guilty of the crime for which he had been condemned.

The imposition of the death

penalty is the government's responsibility. When the state determines that the death penalty will deter murder, it makes a political decision. While the Church may decry both the violence of murder and the death penalty, it is the state's responsibility to determine whether this is the correct penalty to impose for that particular crime.

The Old Testament system of Law endorsed the concept of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth". According to the Law the crime of murder, as well as some other crimes, were to be punished by death. The death penalty was to be carried by the means of stoning the condemned. This was a simple system of justice. Hopefully it also was a deterrent to dissuade oth-

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ers from committing a similar crime.

The New Testament is an offer of mercy even for the guilty. Jesus embarrassed the Pharisees, when they brought the woman taken in adultery, by allowing only the sinless to cast the first rock at her. Since the Pharisees were not seeking justice, but another opportunity to harass Jesus, He turned the tables on them by offering mercy rather than justice. The whole New Testament message is a message of pardon and forgiveness. Its central theme is God's Gift of His Son to take the place of the condemned. It is a plea for all people to place their sins upon the vicarious, sacrificial Lamb on the cross.

Both Christmas and Easter are about God's pardoning of people. Christmas celebrates the coming of the Gift, the Only Begotten Son of God, that God might extend His Grace to the fallen race. Easter demonstrates the actual Gift given on the cross on Good Friday followed by the Resurrection on the first day of the week. This was God's acceptance of the sacrifice made for our sins. The Grace of God was demonstrated in sending and giving His

Son for our Spiritual needs.

As we survey the results of God's grace in each of our lives, we should conclude that we are like the death-row prisoners set free at the last minute before execution. We are "dead men walking". In a sense, we are the ghosts of our old selves. Now we are not controlled by the power of the physical, which landed us on death row, but we have the power of the Holy Spirit who has come into our lives as our guide. We have the same appearance as before but now we have a new life within us. This life issues from the Spirit of God. We had followed the course of our physical desires and we were on the way to being dead men. If we were not actually on some prison's death row, we were so depraved that our consciences were dead to righteousness and goodness. We were spiritually dead although the physical man still moved through life freely.

With the forgiveness of our sins, the cleansing of our hearts and consciences, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the new desires of our hearts, we have become those who were condemned to death but are now living. We have as it were a sec-

ond chance in life. We can now give ourselves to the activities that are wholesome, godly and instructive of righteousness. Lives that were wasted before can become productive in spiritual fruitfulness. "Dead men" speaks of that which is non-productive but "walking" speaks of movement and activity. While we are as good as dead men while living in our own desires and ideals, we can become productive spiritually after we have received the pardon offered by God through His Gracious Gift, Jesus Christ.

Christians are not perfect,

but they are forgiven. Forgiven people are driven to serve their Gracious God. They may serve Him through service to others, study of His Word and a devotional life. "Dead men walking" have much to be thankful for, as they consider how near they were to their execution but were delivered to serve. They were unfruitful but now have the opportunity to produce spiritual fruit that comes from those thankful for their deliverance.

Are you a dead man or are you a dead man walking?

M.C.Cook

ALL I NEED TO KNOW

All through life we have a tendency to fill our mind with useless facts, then when we need to call up an important fact our head is too cluttered with junk. What we should do is make a list of everything we need to know: title it "All I Need to Know", and memorize it. Then we do not need to worry about the nonsense, because the important stuff will already be memorized.

We have to think about what it is that we put on the list. What would you put? It would be handy to know all those num-

bers that we use, like Social Security, car license, safety deposit, birthdays, anniversaries, and the first day of trout season. We should also have locations memorized, like where we put our keys, our recipes, birth certificates, and the like.

But most of all we need to remember the following: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16. "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

I Thessalonians 4:18.

Life is short at the longest. It is a time of preparing. "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." Romans 14:10. Keep in mind that verse has the word "all" in it. That means everybody, and that includes you (and me). We must first give our heart and life over to the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have not done that, you **MUST DO IT NOW**. Do not wait until revival meetings, or even next Sunday in church. If God is calling you now, do not wait any longer. Open your heart to Him and ask Him to forgive your sins and come into your heart and He will.

You say, "Why are you writing such an article for the BIBLE MONITOR?" I once knew a man who had been a member of the church and **EVEN A MINISTER** for over twenty years, and he had never been saved. How is it between you and God? This is the primary question. Can you truthfully say that all is well between you and God? Are your sins forgiven? The old hymn says,

*Oh, the joy of sins forgiven,
Oh, the bliss the blood-
washed know.*

*Oh, the peace akin to
heaven,
Where the healing waters
flow.*

Is there joy in your heart because Jesus truly abides there? We need to ask ourselves these questions, not just on love feast day, but every day.

We ask these questions because we love the souls of mankind and we seek to see people come to a knowledge of God. Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." We earnestly pray that this message will stick with someone today and that they will make their peace with God.

There are a lot of things we know, but most of that knowledge will not get us to heaven. How important are all those trivia facts if they get in the way of our soul salvation? Indeed, when we stand before the King of Glory, what good will those things do us? Seek Him today, and let Him find you.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

TEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

Continued from January 2006 Issue

Principle Four: Pursue the Victory

We had to ask ourselves why this case was taking so long. The biblical models of exorcism did not seem to indicate extended struggles. We eventually reached the conclusion that we must look to the doctrinal sections of the New Testament rather than the historical narrative to answer this question.

Paul's discussion of the armor of God indicates that when believers struggle with the powers of evil they must simply stand by faith. Such a stance eventually brings the victory. The reason for the struggle may be that larger issues are at stake. This particular event was tied to a major power encounter that would tear down a stronghold of demonic activity.

Paul's teaching in Ephesians 6 also shows the intensity of spiritual warfare, that perseverance is required in order to gain the victory. Victory is assured. Knowing that he or she will eventually win, the believer takes his or her stand on

the sure Word of God, which is a powerful weapon against the onslaughts of the enemy. Often in the heat of the battle we found it helpful to gird ourselves by reading the Word of God aloud and affirming its truth. While it fed the faith of the deliverance team and enabled them to persist in the battle, it also had a marked effect upon the demons.

The apostle John revealed the secret for overcoming Satan and his forces. In Revelation chapter 12, John describes a war in heaven in which Satan was cast to the earth. This scene is followed by a declaration that the kingdom of God and the power of His Christ have come. On the basis of the divine victory, the apostle says of the believers: "And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Revelation 12:11)

Victory in spiritual warfare rests first upon the blood atonement made by Jesus Christ at the cross. Christ is the Lamb of

God and His blood is precious to all who understand redemption. At the cross Christ was successful in the total defeat of the powers of darkness. There the prophecy given by God the Father regarding the triumph of His Son over Satan was fulfilled: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

When Jesus died and shed His blood, the devil was mortally wounded. There is no cure for his wound. With his power essentially gone, he now operates as a usurper. Paul confirms this in Colossians: "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (2:15) The powers of hell thought the cross to be their victory, but they were soon to learn that the suffering Savior had won the battle. What the demons intended to be the shame of Jesus turned out rather to be His glory and their shame.

All of us involved with this extended case of demon possession had a head knowledge of these biblical concepts, but they were only theological pre-

mises until our exposure to the reality of actual combat with the powers of darkness. Suddenly these Scripture texts were providing the strength and help we needed most, illuminating our minds with insight and instruction, enabling us to press on.

Principle Five: Discern deception

Over the eight months that it took to gain complete deliverance for Lorna, all of us learned much about the skill of the evil spirits in the art of deception. Like their master Satan, they were proficient liars. They often attempted to engage the exorcists in conversation by offering all kinds of information. It very often proved to be false. (The evil spirits mentioned in Scripture told the truth when Christ questioned them. The problem we are addressing here is the initiation and control by demons of the subject matter.) On one occasion they pretended to leave and then laughed mockingly when we assumed a victory had been gained. At other times they pretended to be the Holy Spirit and told us that the young lady was delivered. Some workers became ensnared by this device.

Obviously, discernment was needed.

As the weeks went by, a degree of discernment came from experience (Hebrews 5:14). This of course, did not replace the need for supernatural discernment such as the gift of discerning of spirits included in Paul's list of spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:10). There were times when the Holy Spirit gave this gift to some in our group, allowing them to immediately expose the deception of the manifesting demon. The practical effect was always a quick and easy expulsion of the demon.

At other times the person with the gift of discerning of spirits would detect the name of the evil spirit. This occurred when very stubborn spirits refused to give their names. Once the spirit's name was revealed, it would leave immediately. The gift of discerning of spirits seemed to be manifest only in times of great need and confusion.

Principle Six: Resist the Enemy

By searching the Scriptures we became convinced of the need to resist the devil and all his forces. This biblical principle

is not only essential for the ministry of deliverance, but it is a frequent need in the daily walk of the Christian. The admonition of the apostle James is applicable: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." (James 4:7-8)

There is no way to resist the devil in the flesh. One must first humbly submit to God and then draw near for cleansing and purification. Those who encounter the powers of darkness with triumph are those who forsake double-mindedness and fully yield to Christ. Cleansed and engulfed in the presence of God, the believer is empowered to resist the devil and his cohorts. Resisting is a conscious stand of faith against the thoughts, ways and workings of the evil spirits and their master the devil. It is a state of mind one must maintain in any encounter with the powers of darkness.

Peter discusses the subject of resisting the devil in chapter 5 of his first epistle. As did James, Peter urges the importance of a right relationship to

Christ as the first prerequisite to successfully resisting Satan. Both James and Peter emphasize the need for a humble spirit in those who undertake such resistance.

Peter anticipated the tactics of the enemy when he said, "Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." (1 Peter 5:7-9)

The enemy will attack the Christian with uncertainty, fear weariness with the struggle and the insidious suggestion that God doesn't really care for His own. Peter was saying that when such negative and untrue thoughts begin, one cannot be passive. Action needs to be taken immediately. The believer must put up

the shield of faith and resist steadfastly every clever attack of the devil.

Perhaps the most graphic description we have of resisting the devil comes from the writings of A. W. Tozer. His famous sermon *I Talk Back to the Devil* puts this concept into terms we understand: "...God never meant for us to be kicked around like a football. He wants us to be humble and let Him do the chastening when necessary. But when the devil starts tampering with you, dare to resist him! I stand for believing in God and defying the devil – and our God loves that kind of courage among His people."

We must take care that our "back talk" is on the sure ground of Christ's triumph over Satan. The devil flees when the godly talk back.

To be continued
Brother Keith M. Bailey

THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH IN KENYA

Greetings in Jesus' name from Kapenguria, Kenya! We are doing well and keeping busy, causing the days to go by quickly. December is one of the warmest, driest months here. It is around 60° in the morning, ris-

ing to at least 80° by afternoon.

I thought it would be good to give you a brief account of the church here and the ongoing work. There are, at present, four congregations: Chesubet, Chepkorniswo, Ortum and

Makutano. The Kenya Mission Board oversees these congregations. The Kenya Mission Board is made up of the missionaries and the leaders of each congregation: Joseph Okemo at Chesubet, Francis Kederling at Chepkorniswo, missionary Nevin Ebersole at Ortum, and Hosea Ambundo and Gilbert Amaswache at Makutano. As mission leader, Alan visits each congregation one Sunday per month, in addition to other visits to assist the leader of a congregation in caring for the needs of that congregation. In the absence of a native leader at Ortum, Nevin travels there three Sundays per month to lead their worship service.

The congregation at Chesubet is a large one, the average attendance on Sunday being one hundred thirty to one hundred forty people. Not yet having a church building, they worship at a school. They are very anxious to have their own church building in which to worship. The people at Chesubet are a close-knit congregation, quick to help each other. They are fervent in their worship and are growing, both in number and spiritually. They have a well-at-

tended Bible study in one of their homes every Friday, which Alan teaches about once a month. Joseph does a very good job of leading his congregation; he knows them well and is involved in their lives. Most of the people are Luyah by tribe, with a couple of other tribes represented. Several of the people speak English.

There is one widow at Chesubet named Margaret. Margaret always seems happy and content, with a big smile. Recently a kerosene lamp caught a blanket on fire in her home, causing a house fire in which Margaret lost all her possessions. The congregation is building her a house, for which the mission is contributing iron sheets for a roof.

The Chesubet area is beautiful, very rolling with maize, beans and tea planted on the steep hillsides. Fertile soil and plentiful rains make the area good for crops.

The Chepkorniswo and Ortum churches are at a lower elevation than Makutano and Chesubet, and it is very hot, dry and windy there. The terrain is flat and there are many cacti, which grow so well that they are planted in rows to make fences.

The people really struggle to survive in this area. There is not enough water and the soil is not fertile. There are many herds of cattle, sheep and goats. The houses are stick and mud with grass or metal roofs. There are very few at the Chepkorniswo and Ortum churches who speak English, and many do not speak Swahili. We rely on Philip Lokapel to interpret for us. Philip is fluent in English, and he often accompanies Nevin to Ortum to interpret English to Pokot. (Philip is about thirty years old, very black-skinned with a huge white smile. He and his wife, Mildred, have four children. They recently legalized their marriage and are in the process of building a new house. Philip is a teacher.) Sometimes we take Abel or Johoshaphat from the church at Makutano to interpret, but they do not speak Pokot, so then we must have two interpreters – English to Swahili, then Swahili to Pokot. The people at these congregations are friendly but it has been difficult for us to get to know them because of the language barrier. The congregation at Chepkorniswo consists mostly of women and children. Average attendance on Sunday is around fifty to sixty. They re-

ally like to sing and can raise the roof! Their leader, Francis, is in his sixties. He and his wife, Lois, have several grown children and they also opened their home to several orphans and raised them. Francis doesn't speak English, but he does speak Swahili so we are able to communicate with him at a basic level.

The church at Ortum is smaller than Chepkorniswo. Attendance on Sunday really varies. They are lacking in native leadership, but there are some young men there who have potential.

The congregation at Makutano worships in the new church building on the mission compound. Attendance on Sunday morning is around ninety to one hundred. Hosea and Gilbert, the leaders here, are the only ordained ministers we have in the Kenyan church. They preach Sunday morning and evening, with Alan preaching the one Sunday morning per month that he's here, and Nevin preaching some Sunday evenings. We also have Wednesday evening prayer meetings and men's and women's Bible study on Thursday afternoons. The men hold their Bible study

in the church building, and the women meet in the various homes. The people are mostly Luyah by tribe, with a few Pokot and Trucana as well.

The singing is a part of the Kenyan church that we especially enjoy. The people are enthusiastic and unselfconscious in their singing. Some sing with their eyes closed. Usually the songs in any given service are a mixture of memorized praise songs, and songs from the small hymn book. There is no designated chorister at any congregation, so whoever wants to lead goes ahead. God has given both Gilbert and Hosea's wife, Florence, especially beautiful voices.

We would like for you, the Dunkard Brethren Church in America, to remember that there is also a Dunkard Church in Kenya. The church here is small but growing, and the native members truly desire the prayers of the American church. We feel that, although part of our purpose here is to teach and disciple the Kenyan church, they certainly have much to teach us, as well. They have a true heart of appreciation for their salvation and a sincere desire to serve God. Their spiritual sight is set on heaven. May God guide us all as we walk heavenward together.

In Him,
Sister Brenda Meyers

NEWS ITEMS

2006 GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Lord willing, 2006 General Conference will be held June 10 through 14 at the West Milton Christian Center (formerly Memorial Holiness Camp Grounds) on Jay Road near West Milton, Ohio. More details will follow. Reservations should be sent to:

Brother Don Hostetler
3925 Kilbourn Rd.
Arcanum, OH 45304
Telephone: 937-692-5443
e-mail: D9Hst@aol.com

REMINDER

With the end of the calendar year, all board treasurers should

be getting records finished and sent to the auditors soon so they can care for their work in a convenient and timely fashion.

Please have all board reports to me by April 1 and any queries or other business for General Conference **as soon as possible** after your District business meeting is completed.

Thank you for your help and co-operation in this work. Remember, one procrastinator can delay the whole train! Let's each do our part!

Blessings,

Brother Jim Meyers,

Writing Clerk for General Conference

2641 205th Street

Dallas Center, IA 50063

Telephone: 515-992-3947

Fax: 515-992-3608

e-mail: jimsallymeyers@juno.com

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation extends an invitation to worship with us at our revival meetings beginning, Friday, March 3 through Sunday, March 12. There will be communion services on Saturday, March 11 beginning at 2:00 P.M. Bro. Keith Bailey will be the speaker for the meetings. Thank you for your prayers in this effort.

Sister Martha Heer, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 2006

March 5 – More Than Words in the Midst of Affliction – I Thess.
1:1-10

1. Should we let others know that we are thanking God for their work of faith and labor of love?
2. If we are the examples that we should be, would our faith be spread, not only to other believers but also to the community around us?

March 12 – Founding and Maintaining the Infant Church – I Thess.
2:1-12

1. What kind of character is necessary for us to effectively reach the world, and to plant a new church?
2. Most of us in the flesh crave the praise of men. But what happens when we take the glory that really belongs to God?

March 19 – Imitating the Churches of God – I Thess. 2:13-20

1. New converts need someone to pattern their lives after. Are we up to the task?
2. In what way has Satan hindered us, and what means has God given us to bind him?

March 26 – A Good Report: Standing Fast Through Tribulation – I
Thess. 3:1-13

1. Do Pastors need to delegate some of the care of the flock to others?
2. There are many needs in the body, so should we pray that God would open up opportunities to perfect that which is lacking in their faith?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 2006

March 5 – Beheading of John the Baptist – Matt. 14:1-13

1. In what way had the teaching of John affected Herod?
2. What do you think will happen to us if we openly proclaim the truth?

March 12 – Our Instruction – Prov. 1:1-19; John 6:45; Eph. 4:21-23

1. Describe the words: wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity.
2. Where is the true source of instruction and how are we renewed in our minds?

March 19 – Our Experiences – Ecc. 3:1-12; Rom. 5:1-12

1. For many their experiences make them bitter. How can we see that God hath made everything beautiful in His time?
2. How does patience in tribulation become the trial or proof of our hope and expectation?

March 26 – Paul's Shipwreck – Acts 27:7-44

1. How did Paul perceive that there would be much hurt and damage if they continued their journey?
2. Are we able to perceive the shipwreck that awaits those who refuse wise counsel?

FEBRUARY 2006 ISSUE

STANDING INFORMATION

EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed.

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:
Please order from closest distributor:

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Road
Englewood, OH 45322

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th St.
Adel, IA 50003

Milton Cook
1138 East 12th St.
Beaumont, CA 92223

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Plain Dressing
Which Is The Right Church?
The Service Of Feet Washing
As A Religious Rite
What Shall I Do With The
Commandments Of Jesus
Daily Reminder
The Lord's Supper
The Doctrine Of The Prayer
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The Brethren's Card
Do You Want Salvation?
Bible Teachings
The Sabbath-Its Origin and
Observance

PUBLICATION BOARD

BIBLE MONITOR (monthly)
\$5.00 per year in advance

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(heavy back)

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plus postage

Church Manual \$1.00 ea.

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\$5.10 doz.

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\$.55 ea., \$6.50 doz.

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Minutes of General Conference
in One Volume

\$4.25 ea. plus \$.35 postage

No charge for the following:

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Baptismal Certificate Blanks

Credential Blanks

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long

involved sentence, which is difficult to punctuate and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations into paragraphs. Set these apart from the rest of the article by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words such as, "thot" for "thought", "2" for "two", "&" for "and", "etc." for "and so forth".

6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least a one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references. Please copy wording and punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter, and verse. "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beleive" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your editor should have this item at least thirty days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as local Sunday School officers, District Meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items, "In Memoriam".

12. Read these, then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. March - Quinter, KS

Sat. before Easter - Pleasant Home, CA

First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA

Second Sun. April - Englewood, OH

Third Sat. April - West Fulton, OH

Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO

Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA

First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA

Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA

Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA

Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, MD

First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD

Third Sun. Oct. - Lititz, PA

Fourth Sun. Oct. - Englewood, OH

Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA

First Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home, CA

First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA

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GOSSIP, BOTH, VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters is contrary to Scripture. It should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interfer-

DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION

CONGREGATION	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Behl, PA	Della Ebling	81 Dry Hollow Rd, Berrville, PA 19506	610-488-7185
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West Fulton, OH	Fred Johnson	P.O. Box 53087, Pettisville, OH 43553	419-445-4976
Winterhaven, CA	Millon Cook	1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223	909-845-6231

ence with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about those matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either

to members, who were not present, or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, Rehrersburg Exit 17. The Church and school are located together. The telephone number is 717-933-5510.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

Located on Savage River Road in Garrett County, Maryland
From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on Interstate 68, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn left or south under the Interstate three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage River Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, West Virginia area, travel east on Interstate 68 to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn right, go

three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route 50 take U.S. Route 220 north. Take Maryland Route 135 at McCooles (just north of Keyser, West Virginia, on Maryland side of bridge) go seven miles on Route 135 (passing through Westernport and past WESTVACO Paper Mill) to Savage River Road. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12.5 miles to church on right

CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Clearville Congregation is located in South Central Pennsylvania, 16 miles south of Everett and about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. The church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held every Sunday at 10:00 AM.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn off Rt. 44 onto Quinlan Avenue at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is located at 2323 Quinlan Avenue, three-fourth mile north on the west side of the road.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Ohio, Rt. 40 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County Rd 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana 15 to Goshen. Turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block. Turn left on West Clinton Street. Go one mile to Green Road, turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of the road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1.5 miles south to 140th Street. Turn west and go to second street, turn south one block.

HART, MICHIGAN

From Muskegon go north on Rt. 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1.5 miles to tee in road. Turn right and go approximately one half mile to church on left side of road.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The white church is on the right.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave Junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colorado on U.S. #50, then one mile north.

MOHLERS, PENNSYLVANIA

Mohlers Meetinghouse - Located near Route 15 on Old Gettysburg Road, south of Mechanicsburg. Coming from the South take the Rossmoyne/Wesley Grove Exit off Route 15. Make a left unto Rossmoyne Road and another left on Old Gettysburg Road. The meetinghouse is on the left after you travel about one-half mile. Coming from the north you will exit onto Rossmoyne Road and make a left onto Old Gettysburg Road.

MT. ZION, PENNSYLVANIA

Services are held at the Kimmerlings Grange, 1529 Mt. Zion Road, Lebanon, PA.

From the west, Follow I 78 to Exit 6, turn right off of exit. Go to stop. Turn left onto US 22. Go to stop and turn right onto Mt Zion Road. Go 6.2 miles to Kimmerlings Grange on left, across from St Jacobs Kimmerlings Church.

From the south, Take 501 north to 422 west, turn right onto Narrows Drive, (right after Unclaimed Freight). Go to second stop, turn right onto Mt Zion Road. Go 0.2 miles to Kimmerlings Grange on right.

From the east, follow I 78 to Exit 8, turn left off of exit onto US 22. Go to stop. Turn right onto Mt Zion Road. Go 6.2 miles to Kimmerlings Grange on left, across from St Jacobs Kimmerlings Church.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Avenue, Modesto, California. The church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: from the south on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Avenue to Claus Road (approximately six miles). Turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, turn left on Sharon. The Church is on the left.

Coming from the north on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 Alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rt. 15 and U.S. Route 20 Alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

From Interstate 68, which transverses east and west through western Maryland, proceed to Cumberland, Maryland. Take Route 220 South through Keyser, West Virginia to US 50. (You will need to take a left turn to continue following Route 220.) Turn east (left) on US 50 and proceed to Ridgeville. Turn right (south) onto Knobley Road.

Follow Knobley Road 7.8 miles (The Antioch Church of God will be on your right). Turn left onto Harness Run Road (which is unpaved). Keep to the right at the "Y" and proceed 1.5 miles to the Ridge church house on the left.

Coming from the east or west on US 50, turn south onto Knobley Road at Ridgeville, and follow the above directions (from Knobley Road to the church).

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The physical location is: 216 North Main Street, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania.

From Baltimore, Maryland and points south of Pennsylvania: Proceed north on Interstate 83. After crossing from Maryland into Pennsylvania, get off the Interstate at the Exit 4 (Shrewsbury Exit). After going down the hill on the ramp, turn left (west) onto State Route 851 (E. Forest Avenue).

Proceed up the hill to the center of the town of Shrewsbury for 0.7 miles. Turn right (north) onto North Main Street and proceed about 0.5 mile. The church building will be on your left (west side of the road). There is a sign in the yard in front of the meetinghouse.

From York or Harrisburg and points north: Proceed south on Interstate 83 to Exit 4 (Shrewsbury Exit). At the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto State Route 851 (E. Forest Avenue) and follow the above directions. There is a sign in the yard in front of the meetinghouse.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Church address is: 2191 Swallow Falls Road, Oakland, MD 21550. Take Maryland Rt. 219 North of Oakland 5.5 miles or South of I 68, 18 miles to Mayhew Inn Road. West on Meyhew Inn Road to the stop sign (4.2 miles). Bear left onto the Oakland-Sang Run Road for .3 mile to the Swallow Falls Road. Turn right onto the Swallow Falls Road for .3 mile. The Church will be on your left.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Church address is: 4000 Kump Station Road, Taneytown, MD 21787. From Littlestown, PA travel Route 194 south toward Maryland. After crossing PA/MD line (this is shortly after Kingsdale Firehouse on right), turn left onto second hard road on your left, which is Kump Station Road. Follow this road approximately one fourth mile to brick church house on right.

From Taneytown, MD, take Route 194 north three miles. Turn right onto Kump Station Road. Brick church house is on right, approximately one fourth mile.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Church is located in west side of town, on the corner of Ridge

and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Avenue, go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. 20 Alternate.

MISSIONS

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION, NEW MEXICO

Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved road leading to the left. This marked Mission Road and a mission sign is at this junction. Present personnel includes: Paul David and Sarah Skiles; George and Coleen Brown; Anna Brown; Mary Hawbaker; Melissa Mummert; Jason Carpenter; Owen Meyers and Nathan Meyers. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: HCR 79, Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013-9701; telephone: 505-731-2292. If no answer call 505-731-2300 or 505-731-2341. Please contact for further information.

AFRICAN MISSION

Located in Makutano, Kenya. Address: P.O.Box 658, Kapenguria, Kenya, EA.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MY HEAVENLY HOME

My Heav'nly home is bright and fair,
Nor pain nor death can enter there;
It's glitt'ring tow'rs the sun outshine,
That heav'nly mansion shall be mine.

My Father's house is built on high,
Far, far above the starry sky;
When from this earthly prison free,
That heavenly mansion mine shall be.

While here a stranger far from home,
Affliction's waves may round me foam;
And though, like Lazarus, sick and poor,
My heavenly mansion is secure.

Then fail this earth, let stars decline,
And sun and moon refuse to shine,
All nature sink and cease to be –
This heavenly mansion stands for me.

-W. Hunter

MORE THAN A DREAM

How many times have we wished we had a large sum of money, a certain automobile, a mansion sized house, special adult toys, or any other possession that is pretty much out of the question? We have the idea that if we have these things we automatically will become happy. We feel that if we just had a few more dollars, a little larger house, a newer vehicle or some other desirable commodity then we would be very content and our lives would be so enjoyable. We like to convince ourselves that we would be wise enough to use them in a godly manner.

While we live in an acquisitive age, we also live in an age of unhappiness. We readily recognize that material blessings

do not automatically provide true happiness.

In fact as we collect various material items, we often become bored with them. What we thought would bring us some greater degree of joy soon turns into an item that causes problems. There are repairs that need to be made, there are taxes to be paid, and there are security concerns about protecting these things. We become so wrapped up in protecting these possessions that we don't have time to enjoy them.

These wishes for more and more material possessions become dreams. They may even dominate our thoughts whether awake or asleep. Often these dreams floating in our heads keep us from being serious

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about the task immediately before us. We have our minds occupied with how we are going to acquire these things and how we are going to use them and how we are going to protect them, so we do not apply ourselves to our present task. These dreams may become wishful thinking.

Dreams may have value if they become goals that are attainable and cause us to work to secure them. But dreams that are just wishful thinking and hoping will remain unattained. For a dream to be worthwhile it must have a basis in the real world. It may not be easy to attain but a strong dream will sustain us for the struggle.

There are some things that are better than dreams although they are not material objects. These are eternal, spiritual things. To hear of Heaven is to hear of a place that seems more of a dream than reality. In our flesh and bone bodies we can hardly dare think of a place where there will be no pain, suffering, tears or sense of time. We just can not relate to these concepts that are foreign to our worldly, material experiences. We might classify them as dreams.

We know they are true. They are true because we read of them in the Word of God. In John 17, Jesus says, "Thy word is truth".

There are many hints of Heaven spread through the Bible. The Book of Revelation contains that brilliant picture of the streets of gold and the foundations of valuable gems. Even better than the picture of the richness of Heaven is the assurance that all tears will be wiped away. It will be a place of joy without tears of sorrow nor the tears of pain.

We know also the promise is true because Jesus very pointedly stated that He was going to prepare mansions for believers. He said if He prepared that place, that He would return for those who would inhabit those mansions. Either we believe Jesus or we do not. If we believe Him we can look forward to a wonderful experience beyond the wildest dreams of this world. If we do not believe Him, we have no hope of anything better than this world's promises that are limited by time. If we do not believe that He can secure us a Home beyond our fondest and grandest dreams, then we obviously can

not believe Him for our soul's salvation.

The dreams of this earth may or may not come true. These earthly dreams often are for those things that are not for our Spiritual good. They are dreams that may give us momentary joy and may bring more heartache than happiness. They are often concerned only with the material and physical pleasures of this world rather than the eternal joys that our Spirits really seek and need.

Our dreams should be those dreams that are based on the solid foundation of the words of Jesus. He declared the Word of God to be true, so we can base our dreams on the Bible rather than on the material promises of

this world. Our dreams should be not only of what we will enjoy in the unending ages in Heaven. Our dreams should also be concerned with how we might be the servants of God here and over there. How might we encourage others to make the same sane choice of basing their dreams on their confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Do you have dreams? What do you dream of? Are they only of the material and physical desires of this world or are they of another place and another way of viewing things? Get your dreams in line with Jesus and you will not fail to enjoy the outcome of your dreams.

M.C.Cook

A NEW HEART

"Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; **and make you a new heart** and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Isaiah 18:31

There are verses in Scripture that teach that God will give a new heart. But in this verse it appears that the responsibility lies with Israel. We believe this verse can also be applied to the Church. Since the Church is

made up of individuals there is also a personal message for each of us who call ourselves by the name Christian.

There is a need for a heart of discernment. This is a day of great confusion with everything from "unity in diversity" to "Intelligent Design" confronting the Church. The Church has transgressed by allowing society and progressive religious movements to control their thinking.

The Holy Spirit, who rightly interprets the Holy Scriptures and leads thereby, has been replaced in many instances with the spirit of this age.

There is a need for a heart of love. True love is not allowing a brother or sister to fall victim to this confusion. For in I Corinthians 13:9 we read (Charity, love) "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth." It has rightly been pointed out by some that the church is so busy hassling over minor issues that major Scriptural doctrines have been left untaught and not defended. This, of course, is not true of all believers. But it does seem like there is more church dissension in this day than was true since the New Testament Jew/Gentile issues plagued the church and the time directly following what is known as the Reformation.

There is a need for a heart of compassion. We see compassion as acting out of this love. There are many hurting individuals within the body of Christ. This varies from those who are suffering physical ailments to those who are struggling spiritually. It is much easier to merely find fault than to reach out in compassion towards

those who are struggling spiritually.

There is a need for a heart seeking righteousness. This is a balance to those hassling over minor issues spoken of earlier. There are a few groups who hold to strict standards without any apparent loss of membership, in fact, many of these are among the few growing church bodies. It seems that "forced unity", which is actually a contradiction in terms, has a negative result for most. We are persuaded that what is being lost in these situations is the Lordship of Jesus Christ. For all too long the emphasis has been on obeying church rules that has been established by moral church leaders. It seems we have lacked teaching why they are a means of pleasing the Lord Jesus Christ! It is only when truly seeking righteousness that we can identify the dangers of modern styles and practices.

Do we need a new heart in church leadership? A heart that does not fear the loss of membership when they choose to point out that many of the present day trends in the church have been borrowed from Hollywood, the New Age Movement and even the drug culture.

We do not believe it is contradictory to have a heart of love towards those who do not share our convictions in dress and other church practices but stand firmly on the truth that all Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit. The danger, of course, is when we allow them to convince us that these things are not important. That is the danger of the ecumenical movement.

We started out by stating that the Church, and the individuals, who make up the Church, has the responsibility to strive for a new heart. But let us never forget that only a true salvation experience will provide this new heart. There must be a balance between preaching and teaching the need of salvation and church doctrine.

Allowing the Lord Jesus Christ to lead us to seeking a new heart can make the coming year truly new, should He tarry. We are at the time of this writing in the midst of studying the Old Testament in our personal devotions. We were, for some rea-

son, made more aware of the judgments of God upon the nation of Israel because of their disobedience, which was largely due to following the ways of pagan nations. The teaching that God will defer judgment because of a one time repeat of "the sinner's prayer" by those who make up the body of Christ is a delusion that we fear will be the downfall of many organizations and individuals.

On the other hand, a new heart will bring us the joy of the Lord. Churches will experience genuine love and fellowship. God the Father will become "Abba Father" to His chosen ones. Jesus Christ will become our Counselor, Redeemer, True Light and the peace that passeth all understanding. The Holy Spirit will become our source of joy. Do we truly desire a new heart both as a church and as individuals?

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

TODAY WAS A MEMORY

December 19, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Yesterday after church I told a little boy that attends that I

would come to see him tomorrow. Luputa's mother is blind, and thirteen-year-old Luputa is

her eyes. Now this little boy has a very bad name. Many call Luputa a thief. Some say he is just bad news. But about four weeks ago at evening service he kept looking at me, so I motioned for him to come sit with me, and he did. He sat tight to me and I snuggled close to him. He has sat with me maybe twice since then.

I must tell you that last night I was awake about two hours praying for little Luputa. Today I took Abel, our grounds keeper and a very Godly man, to speak Swahili as I went to visit Luputa. He was happy to see me coming. We visited very little until I became serious. I told Luputa that when I was little I did some wrong things like stealing and I told some lies and so forth and I had to confess these things to God to receive salvation. I said, "Luputa, you are at a crossroad. You need to make a decision. You will keep making wrong choices or you can make a wonderful choice to become a child of God. If you become a child of God, you will become a man of God."

I told him about two brothers, one has been a man of God for many years because of good choices, and the other has made

wrong choices all his life and has never pleased God. I said, "Luputa, I love you and I want to help you be a child of God today." I knew the Holy Spirit needed to do the work, so I silently prayed. In about fifteen seconds tears started to flow from his eyes as he just stared straight ahead. Then he started to cry aloud. I went over to little Luputa and picked him up in my arms and hugged him like a baby. We both cried for some time. I asked Luputa, "Would you like to pray to receive Jesus?" He said he would. He told Abel he wanted to kneel and pray. We prayed. He repeated after me a wonderful prayer.

The first thing he said after we sat up was, "My name is Simon, and I don't want to be called Luputa anymore." He said Luputa means rebellious and it is a name he was called because he was always bad. I told him I would always call him Simon. He also told me that he steals much. He tells his blind mother he finds things in the middle of the road and he does not want to do this any more. But he would like some Christmas clothes, and he doesn't want to steal them. I said, "Luputa, I will try to buy you some."

I told Luputa I loved him and if he is ever tempted to steal he should come to see me.

Abel and I came home praising the Lord. So today Theda and I bought this new child of God two new shirts and a new

pair of trousers.

My dear brothers and sisters, keep praying for us as we share the love of Jesus. May God bless your day also.

Brother Nevin Ebersole

TEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

Continued from February 2006 Issue

Principle Seven: Pray and Fast

A few demons encountered in Lorna were very strong and refused to leave when commanded. This puzzled the team. So we went to the Scriptures for light on the problem. Jesus' words to His disciples in Mark 9:29 enlightened us: "...This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting." The disciples had been unable to cast out a spirit from a boy greatly tormented from early childhood. Jesus commanded the demon to leave, and even then it resisted to the end by throwing the child into a convulsion.

Our team on some occasions was criticized for its seeming inability to get instant deliverance. After reflection on

Jesus' words to His disciples, we concluded that when we faced such strong demons we would resort to fasting and prayer. At times the battle continued for up to fifty-eight hours. But, in every instance, full deliverance came.

Those extended times of waiting on God brought untold blessing to all who participated. We were no longer alarmed at the idea that some spirits could put up such strong resistance. Christ *is* the victory; He has no need to *win* the victory over Satan and his forces. The temporary resistance of the demons, we learned, could be compared to the devil roaring like a lion — defeated, but hoping by his grandiose deception to hold his ground a bit longer.

Principle Eight: Sing and Praise

The singing of hymns with deep theological content was a daily routine. It became a part of the process just like prayer. The content of the hymns was important. Most focused on the blood of Christ or His resurrection from the dead. Each day we sang all the verses of "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues." Again and again we sang "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood." It is of interest to note that these hymns provided great encouragement to the workers and at the same time produced great agitation in the evil spirits. Songs that exalted Christ or spoke of the blood and the resurrection were the most effective.

Even though these sessions were heavy experiences, there were times when the joy of the Lord would sweep over us and we would praise Him audibly. Psalm 149 became a favorite reading on these occasions. The psalmist says, "Let the saints be joyful in glory;..." (149:5) He also said, "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,..." (149:6) The Psalm goes on to describe the judgment of God on the enemies of righteousness and how the saints are a part of

that process. He closes the psalm with the declaration, "...this honour have all his saints." (149:9). (By "honour" is meant the privilege to be the instrument of Christ acting with the authority of Christ to overcome the power of the evil one.)

Singing and reading Psalms interspersed with shouts of joy dealt staggering blows to the forces of evil. Joy seemed foreign to them. The praise of God filled them with fear. What an insight into the misery that characterizes the domain of darkness! The pure, heartfelt praise of the Lord Jesus Christ, we found, reverberates to the very center of Satan's kingdom. We can shout with Paul, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Principle Nine: Cast out the Demon

After counseling, instruction, prayer, fasting, singing, praising and testing the spirits, the task of exorcism is yet to come. The goal of the deliverance process is to free the victim completely of the demons' presence and power. Jesus called this aspect of the ministry "casting out demons." The concept can be best

understood by examining the Greek verb *ekballo*. The lexicon gives as the first meaning of this word – “to drive out, expel, throw out more or less forcibly.”

Since the demon has strongholds in the personality, it will not yield that place unless forced to do so by a superior power. To make the demon relinquish its hold and leave requires both power and authority. Christ conferred on those He delegated to cast out demons the authority and the power to do so. Christians who undertake this work must be clothed with power from on high. They must also by faith see themselves seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the source of power and the enthroned Christ is the place of authority.

To be precise, Jesus cast out demons by commanding them to leave the possessed person. That act implied that the demon was to give up all control of the individual and leave. Casting out the demon is the high point in the whole process of deliverance. The conflict is brought to completion by expelling the evil spirit and consequently freeing the victim.

The phenomena of how de-

mons leave is a study in itself. The New Testament records show that convulsions, frothing at the mouth and loud cries occurred in some cases when the demons left. These actions seem to be one last but minor act of rebellion even though the demons know full well they have been defeated. Such manifestations do not always take place. Some demons leave quietly, witnessed only by an evident sense of release of the possessed person.

Principle Ten: Discern between Healing and Exorcism

As Lorna's deliverance progressed, physical and psychological symptoms were observed that gave the team concern. It was the writings of Luke in his Gospel and the Acts that gave insight into this need. In Luke chapter 6, the evangelist records the story of a large gathering of people from Jerusalem, Judea and the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon. Many sick and possessed people were present. The Scriptures say that Jesus healed all the sick and then state that He healed all those tormented with unclean spirits. There were no doubt persons suffering various levels

of demonic activity, but most certainly there were those who were actually possessed. Luke, in this passage, makes deliverance a healing ministry.

The Lord Jesus knew the difference between demon possession and mental illness. He healed the mentally ill and drove the demons out of the possessed. That distinction is important in our time as well. Care must be taken to determine the real cause of the manifesting symptoms. Some symptoms of possession are similar to symptoms of mental illness or chemical imbalances. If care is not taken to make a proper diagnosis, the person could be traumatized by the process of misapplied exorcism.

It is sometimes advisable to learn the medical history of the individual or it may be wise to ask if the person has had a psychiatric evaluation. If the symptoms have no physical or psychiatric basis, there is a strong likelihood that the problem is of demonic origin. Since we do not have perfect knowledge like the Lord Jesus, we should learn all we can about the activities of the individual and determine if there is any ground for demonic invasion in his or her experience.

Some teachers on this subject seem to imply that demons have ready access to human beings and one can therefore be easily possessed. That position presents the frightening possibility that one could be possessed accidentally. Neither the Scriptures nor the experiences of over fifty years in dealing with possession brings me to that conclusion.

The demon-possessed person not only needs the exorcism of the evil spirit, but healing from the devastating effects of possession. Physical ailments of all kinds show up in possessed persons. Sometimes these symptoms disappear when the spirit(s) is (are) cast out. In other cases, the physical condition may linger. Prayer for healing – not exorcism – should be offered in such cases.

Luke makes another reference to healing in the context of the demonic in Acts 10:38. He reports that Jesus healed all who were oppressed of the devil. The psychological effects of possession also need healing. Victims may find themselves depressed and feeling mentally unstable. The ability to think clearly may be impaired. Thank God the healing touch of

Christ can bring restoration.

After learning these concepts, special prayer for healing of mind and body was offered during Lorna's deliverance. The results were remarkable. She seemed like a new person. Her emotions were stable. Her mind became alert. She memorized Scripture passages and displayed above-average intellect. Her prayers were powerful. It seemed that her true personality was being discovered for the first time. She began reading large portions of the Bible each day and showed a clear understanding of what she read.

Conclusion

The revealed Scriptures are wholly true and give an objective, factual view of the powers of darkness. Here we learn the nature of Satan and demons. Their history is recorded so one can understand their fall and their subsequent rebellion against God and God's people. The Bible also shows the divine limitations on the activity of the evil powers. They are given realms of authority. Satan is the god of this world. The whole world order including government, culture and lifestyle is energized by these evil personali-

ties. The system is the product of an intelligent but morally twisted mind.

Spiritual warfare is much more than dealing with exorcism. The Christian lives in this alien system and must confront its evil influence daily. The spiritual resources available to the exorcist are needed by all Christians. One great benefit of dealing with demon possession is the experiential realization that Jesus Christ has triumphed over the hosts of hell and that victory is applied today whenever God's people appropriate it by faith.

The Word of God is a reliable guide for the ministry of deliverance. The methods of Christ set forth in the Gospels and the same methods used by the first-century Christians are equally effective today. Deliverance from demon possession is redemptive. It was an integral part of the overall ministry of Christ. He delegated the work to His Church. Wherever the gospel message of redemption is fully preached in the world, deliverance from demonic bondage will take place.

The ministry of deliverance demonstrates who the winner is in this conflict. There is a sense in which the

phenomenon of demon possession is a graphic and public display of the larger but sometimes hidden conflict with evil and the intelligence behind it. Demon possession displays the violent, insane, hideous side of evil, but the ministry of deliverance provides convincing proof that Jesus Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords who now reigns and shall reign forever and ever.

Thank God there is in the gospel of Christ release for the

possessed. It is still possible for even the most demented to be made whole and sit clothed and in their right minds.

Brother Keith M. Bailey

Editor's note. This concludes the reprinting of this excerpt from Strange Gods written by Brother Keith Bailey in 1998. May this excerpt prove to be helpful as this demonic activity becomes more common in our present age.

SET ON FIRE OF HELL

"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire of hell." James 3:6

We all should think before we speak. We should be careful and charitable when talking about others. We should speak as if there were a knife poised at our throat ready to strike at the first false word. There is nothing so destructive, as deadly, or as permissive as the tongue. Whole congregations of believers have gone by the wayside because of the tongue. Lives have been lost; souls have

been turned into hell because of gossip, railing, false words, foolishness, and idle words. Churches have split and innocents have been sacrificed because of wantonness of speech.

Do we build bridges, or do we burn them? Do we love the Brethren, or do we seek to divide the Brotherhood? Do we unite around the Blessed Son of God, or do we bite and devour one another?

There is nothing that destroys like fire. Not only is the object destroyed, but also the heat generated withers everything around it. The tongue is a fire. It destroys more than the person speaking ever would

expect. It destroys unto the second and third generation! A gossip never expects to see so much pain and anguish. Often, the gossip "only wanted to help." You may hear "Let me tell you this so you can pray about it." But that is often not the purpose behind the verbal assault. The gossip never figures on one crucial effect of his work. No one can speak evil of a brother or sister and maintain his relationship with God. Matthew 7:1 tells us not to judge. To spread gossip is to place the victim under the judgment and scrutiny of man. A man that judges another cannot have unbroken fellowship with God. We are told by the Lord Jesus not to judge. If you do, you are disobeying the Lord Jesus. You have become a power over another man reserved for God. We often stand in our own way, and in so doing we separate ourselves from God.

Our salvation was purchased at the highest of all costs. To insinuate ourselves between God and man to lay judgment at the feet of another puts us in the position of God, and that is blasphemy. That is what Jesus was accused of by the scribes and Pharisees.

There are those who believe mistakenly that their "concern" for others is truly a good thing. If it translates into gossip or slander of another it cannot be the right thing to do. As one who has been victimized by gossip, we realize that most people who gossip do not feel that they are doing anything wrong. This shows how the carnal mind works. In Proverbs 15:4 it says, "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life." One thing the Lord hates is a "lying tongue." (Proverbs 6:17) The fact is we cannot worship God, serve Him or even be a Christian and judge others. The two just cannot co-exist. May God help us to look steadfastly at Him, throw all other help aside, and prostrate ourselves at the foot of the cross. We will rise with a different attitude towards the world and towards each other.

A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill.
A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress;
A loving word may heal and bless.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

FRIENDSHIP

Mabel Wells

As another year draws to a close, somehow our thoughts linger around friendship.

What we may have gained or most important, given for friendship.

Examining ourselves along this line, we wish to stir up, if possible, others, to the sacredness of true friendship. Let us ask ourselves, "Have we been true friends of God and our fellowmen?" Let us see. We cannot go wrong by using the gospel for example.

Turn to the first chapter of Luke's Gospel. Here we have a very beautiful friendship between two cousins, Elizabeth and Mary. Elizabeth was to bring forth her first son, who was to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus, who was to be born of the Virgin Mary.

Just read the conversation that took place between these two women. And Mary abode with Elizabeth until her time was fulfilled. A friend will rejoice with another's exaltation. These two did not have to wait till their time was fulfilled to know if they would give birth to a son or daughter but they knew from the

beginning. How sweet their thoughts and communication must have been.

John was born and fulfilled his mission to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. We do not read of John ever meeting Christ until he came to him for baptism.

Here was a friendship begun, but there were evidences that it was strong, deep and true. There were several occasions on which this friendship proved its sincerity and its loyalty.

Multitudes flocked to John to hear his preaching and accept his baptism.

He was asked, "Art thou Elias?" "Art thou that Prophet?" "Who art thou?" John could have felt elated because of the multitudes who sought him, and claimed this high honor for himself. There were other Bible characters who tried this. But John only replied, "I am a voice crying in the wilderness, just a voice, one that would preach repentance." He sought no earthly praise or recognition. He was not eager to have his name sounding on people's lips. He knew how empty such honor

was.

Friend, do you make yourself obscure and go before, and exalt your friends, brother and sister, do you do this or does envy and a bit of jealousy prevent this?

Is your dearest friend, Christ, exalted in your life or does everything else get the credit for your prosperity and well being?

John's life was like an eclipse over-shadowed by the Son of God.

John had a work to do. To fulfill this mission was his desire. He did not overstep his bounds. How well it would be if every follower of Christ would try to understand perfectly the place of his own work with relation to Christ's.

Once John said to his own disciples, "Behold the Lamb of God" and bade them leave him and go after the Messiah. A mark of John's noble friendship for Jesus.

It takes a brave person to send his friends away that they may give their lives and service to another.

Once John's disciples were somewhat upset by the growing fame and influence of Jesus. John's disciples loved him and

drew his attention to the fact that throngs of his followers were turning to Jesus.

They spoke as though it wasn't right that Jesus should rise to prosperity at the expense of John who had helped him rise, had even opened the way for Him.

Test yourselves along these lines. Did you ever try to be a true friend to someone, concerned about their welfare and prosperity in the advancement of God's kingdom on earth? Only to find them increasing more and more and you yourself became as nothing to them. Could you stand the test?

If John had been less noble than he was, his friendship for Jesus less loyal, such words from his disciples would have embittered him. Would it you?

A spark of envy is often fanned into a disastrous flame by friends who come with such appeals to the human that is in every one. But John had never been hurt by popularity, as so many men are. Not all good people pass through times of success, with its elation and come out simple-hearted and lowly. The severe test of character comes in the time of waning favor, when the crowds melt

away, and another is receiving the applause. Many in such an experience fail to retain sweetness of spirit, and become embittered.

John stood both tests. Popularity had not made him vain. The losing of fame did not embitter him. He kept humble and sweet and loyal. He did not complain against God but was satisfied with God's will.

He said Jesus must increase and he must decrease. Another time Jesus is the bridegroom, and he just the bridegroom's friend and get this, he even rejoiced with the bridegroom's honor. Can we do this? The word says we should.

Then we find John cast into prison because he was a preacher of righteousness. He did not cause anyone to commit sin and then try to preach them right again. Did not take the scripture out of its setting for his own personal gratification, but he protested evil and through this his precious life came to an end.

In the dreary prison cell he began to doubt, surely to question whether his dear friend, Jesus, was indeed the Messiah. Loyal to the last, he did not turn to any other but sent directly to

Jesus for the answer. How many heartaches could be spared if church members would do this.

The reply came back to John. The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

And for the reassuring of John's perplexed faith He further adds, "And blessed is he who-soever shall not be offended in me."

Surely these words must have touched the vital spot.

After John's disciples departed to carry this message back to this lonely forsaken one, Jesus turned to the multitude and spoke words that gave John the highest honors. He spoke of his stability and firmness. He was not a reed shaken with the wind.

He was not a self-indulgent man who loved luxury; but was a man ready for any self-denial and hardship. Jesus further states "Among them that are born of women, there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." The greatest honor that could be bestowed on an individual. Let us meditate on the life of these beautiful examples.

Notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven, is greater than he.

Do you not think the multitudes were moved and awed by the genuineness and harmony of these two lives? It is an evidence of true friendship that one speaks well of one's friend behind his back. How sad when those who say they are friends turn the opposite.

Some human friendships seem to endure for a time, then dissolve destroying, if possible, the power and influence of the other. Sometimes, sad to say, we come into relationships with such that form such friendship. It endures for a time and when something new comes along

they drop the old and take up the new. They have no time for the old and when anyone says a kind word about the old they merely shrug their shoulders and say, "Well if you knew that person as I do," and on and on they go. You know the story. Tearing down influences undermining, taking if possible, the very life giving substance from the individual.

Dear reader, what kind of a friend have you been the past year? It's not how many friends we gain, it's how true a friend we have been that counts.

Selected from the March 1,
1946 issue of the Bible
Monitor

BIBLE STORY

MIRACLES ON AN ISLAND

Acts 28:1-14

Paul had been shipwrecked on an island called Melita. There were people living on this island and they treated Paul and those that were with him with kindness. They built a fire to warm them for they had been in the water and were wet and cold. Paul was helping to gather wood, and when he put his bundle of sticks on the fire a vi-

per came out of the wood, wrapped itself around his hand and bit him. A viper is a very poisonous snake. If one is bitten by a viper it means death. Paul just shook the snake off into the fire. The natives of the island supposed Paul must be a murderer who was being punished by fate and thought he would soon fall over dead. When

no harm came to Paul, and his hand didn't swell, they changed their minds and said Paul was a god.

The governor of the island was a man whose name was Publius. He fed Paul and his friends and gave them a place to sleep for three days. This man's father was very sick. He had a fever and was about to die. When Paul saw the sick man he prayed to God and laid his hands on him and the man got well. When it was heard that the man was healed, others who had diseases and were sick came to Paul and were healed, every one. This was a great

miracle, indeed, and Paul and those with him were honored and given the best of everything.

They stayed on the island for three months, and finally a ship from the city of Alexandria sailed and took Paul and his company on their way toward Rome. Because of severe storms this ship had anchored by the island of Melita for the winter. The natives appreciated what God had done for them and gave the shipwrecked men whatever they needed for their journey. God cared for Paul and He cares for you and me too.

Brother Rudy Cover

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

J. H. Moore

MUSH AND MILK FOR SUPPER

Among the early settlers in this country there was doubtless more hospitality than there is at the present time, and it was probably more highly prized. Those given to the entertaining of strangers were generally spoken of in a complimentary manner. In the absence of hotels they were sought out by the traveler, and then recommended to the other travelers. In this way

some families became widely known with the traveling public.

There were those who prided themselves with the thought that they never turned a stranger from their door. My father was one of this class. At the time of which we now write he lived on a farm a short distance from an extensively-traveled road in the Southwest. Houses were then few, and

some of them far apart. Every traveler who asked for lodging got it, - such as we had in those days, when everybody in that part of the country was glad to be the proud owner of even a one-story log cabin, with a puncheon floor, clapboard roof and a large fireplace, where most of the cooking was done. In the lodging of strangers our experience was varied, sometimes interesting and now and then a little annoying. We now refer to an instance that has always been pleasant to think about.

One evening a well-dressed traveler rode up to the fence, just in front of the door - we lived about three hundred yards from the road - and asked lodging of my father. He was told that he could share the hospitality of the home if he thought he could put up with our simple way of living. This he said he could do so with pleasure. He dismounted - nearly all travelers in those days made their way through the country on horseback - and his horse was placed in the log stable on the north side of the hill, while the traveler, with my father and us children, waited for supper in the sitting room, dining room and kitchen combined.

For supper that evening my

mother had prepared only mush and milk, the famous evening diet for that part of the West. When she learned that we were to entertain the stranger she immediately readjusted things at one end of the table. Here she placed her best china - such as it was - and a few choice articles of diet. The stranger witnessed the readjusting with considerable interest. When all things were ready he was invited to take his place at that part of the table where the china and spreads contrasted rather sharply with the crocks and plain dishes elsewhere.

After my father had given thanks he told the stranger to "help himself." This was the usual western style of indicating the moment to commence eating. The gentleman nodded politely, at the same time keeping an eye on the rest of us who dipped into the common dish, took out plentiful supplies of mush, and placed the same in our bowls of cool, fresh milk. After watching the movements a few seconds he leaned back in his chair, looked straight at my mother and said: "Madam, what have I done that I cannot have some of this mush and milk too?" This brought out smiles all

around the table. He was assured that there was plenty of it and was immediately supplied with a bowl and spoon, and was soon eating mush and milk like the rest of us. It was a pleasure to see that hungry traveler enjoying the best relished meal that he had probably eaten in months. To him it was something unusual to sit in a rude log cabin, with a family of poor yet healthy and happy people, and share with them such simple articles of diet as they could afford.

The evening was spent

most pleasantly, for he proved to be a man of fine literary attainments. Little did he think that by coming down to our level he was making on young hearts impressions that would be spoken of fifty years later. He went his way. His name has long since faded from my memory, but his kind and manly conduct will never be forgotten. It is a pleasure to think of a stranger traveling over the country, and leaving behind him traces of kindness that will be fondly remembered long after he has gone to his grave.

OBITUARIES

SHARON HANEY

Sister Sharon Ann (Frantz) Haney was born in Troy, Ohio to Harold R. and Ruth M. (Spitler) Frantz on March 3, 1944. She peacefully passed away at her home on November 30, 2005, making her sojourn in life 61 years, 8 months and 27 days.

At the age of sixteen she accepted Jesus into her life and was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church, where she was in fellowship at her death.

She was joined in marriage to Albert C. Haney on October 6, 1962. They were blessed with forty-three years together. To this union were born four children. She enjoyed the labors of the farm with her family. Bearing her affliction with patience, she was anointed twice which gave her much comfort.

She is survived by her husband, Albert; three sons and one daughter; David and wife Doris of Bradford, Ohio, Daniel and wife Melissa of Arcanum, Ohio, Sarah and husband Doug Burns of Covington, Ohio, John and wife Christa of Bradford, Ohio; her mother and stepfather, Ruth and Wesley Speicher of Phillipsburg,

Ohio; one brother, Stanley and wife Myrna Frantz of Covington, Ohio; one sister-in-law, Wilma Wyrick of Cincinnati, Ohio; twelve grandchildren, Susan (and husband Craig Mitchell), Sara, Elizabeth, Mark, Amanda, Benjamin, Luke, Maria, Michael and Phillip Haney, Debra and Darlene Burns and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father Harold Frantz and one brother George F. Frantz.

On December 5 we met at Gilbert and Fellers Funeral Home for a prayer service at 9:15 A.M. Hymn, "Asleep in Jesus" was sung and Bro. John Ledington shared thoughts from Psalm 23. Further services were held at 10:00 A.M. at Salem Old German Baptist Brethren meeting house. Elders Phil Gish, Paul Stump, and Keith Bailey shared thoughts and encouragement from John 14:1-11, Psalm 116:15 and Amos 4:12 on being prepared to meet Jesus in peace. This was Sharon's request. Hymns used throughout the service from the Brethren Hymnal were 539, 513, 540, 542. While viewing numbers 581, 730, 699, 739, 403 and 401 were sung. Burial followed at Bethel Cemetery, which was one mile from her home. Bro. David Rice had a short service and hymns sung while family and friends closed the grave were 530, 568, 577, 578, 576, and 573. We trust our loss is her eternal gain.

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the Bar.

-Tennyson

God Understands

God understands the heartache
When you face a lonely road.
And He'll be there beside you
To help bear the heavy load.
Though yearning for the touch
Of a loved one gone today,
Remember God still loves you
And will lead you all the way.
When the nights seem endless
And days are gray and drear,
Keep faith within your heart
For He sees the falling tear.
You need not feel forsaken
Trust His promises so true:
"Lo, I am with you always
With grace enough for You."
The Father's keeping watch
With His eternal love,
And peace He has promised
To you from above.

-Aileen Williams

PAULETTA JOHNSON

Sister Pauletta N. Johnson passed away at Toledo Hospital, November 5, 2005 from a fall in her home the night before, at the age of 88 years 9 months and 4 days. She was the daughter of G. A. and Allie (Ferrenburg) Eby.

She was taught by Elder B. E. Kessler her first year of school in Matthews, Missouri.

She came to Ohio in 1926 where she became a faithful mem-

ber of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church.

On February 5, 1938 she was united in marriage to Elder H. Edward Johnson who survives. Also surviving is one son Fred (Jane) Johnson; three daughters, Vera (Delmer) Pike and Lucille (Phil) Vollmar of Wauseon, Ohio and Ruth (Ted) Kreiner of West Unity, Ohio; thirteen grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, one step great-great-grandchild; three sisters, Sylvia Viers of Aldvorton, Ohio, Vera Armstrong of Lyons, Ohio and Alberta Armstrong of Wauseon, Ohio. Preceding her in death were her father, mother, two brothers, Ted and Clay Eby, three sisters, Maude Butts, Verna Stoltz and Jeanette Poorman.

Pauletta will be remembered by her sweet gentle spirit and the hundreds of prayer coverings she made.

Funeral services were held at the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church with Elder Harley Flory conducting the opening, Elder Tom St. John officiating, Elder Dennis St. John conducted the grave side service and Elder William Carpenter had the closing prayer at the Smith Cemetery.

The family wishes to express their thanks for all the cards, phone calls, contributions made and for the PRAYERS in our behalf.

CAN'T YOU SEE HER THERE?

Can't you see her there?

Talking to Jesus, her life long friend?

Can't you see her smile

As she walks along

Can't you see her there?

Whistling the new song?

Can't you see her joy

As the angels sing along?

Can't you see here there?

Walking through the gardens?

Can't you see her so happy-

So thankful to see flowers again?

Can't you see here there?
Teaching the children Husker-du?
Can't you see her so content
Feeding them popcorn and grape juice?

Can't you see her there?
In the kitchen of her brand new mansion?
Can't you see her baking
Those perfect chocolate pies again?

Can't you see her there?
Waiting with arms wide open?
Can't you see her still praying
Ready to welcome us to heaven?

I can see her there-
So happy to be home
I can see the bounce back in her step
As she approaches the Father's throne.

GRAMMA

I wanted to live on a farm like you
So you let me gather the eggs.

I wanted to be an amazing cook like you
So you let me cut the crust and eat the dough.

I wanted to be able to make anything like you
So you let me sew your scraps into pouches.

I wanted to drink coffee like you
So you fixed me a hot cup of Postum.

You wanted me to be a woman of God, like you
So you spent your lifetime on your knees.

I may never be quite like you
But I will always remember my Gramma's love.

These poems were written by a granddaughter
Sister Sara Jane Johnson

SYLVIA VIERS

Sister Sylvia P. Viers, 93, of Alvordton, Ohio died December 8, 2005 in her home.

The daughter of Allie May (Ferrenburg) and George Albert Eby, she was born July 7, 1912, in New Madrid, Missouri. She was the widow of Andrew J. "Jack" Viers, who preceded her in death in March 1985.

A homemaker, she was a member of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church in Fulton County.

Surviving are a daughter, Mary Ledyard of Fayette, Ohio; two sisters, Alberta Armstrong of Wauseon, Ohio and Vera Armstrong of Morenci, Michigan; fifteen grandchildren; thirty-six great-grandchildren and twenty-three great-great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death, in addition to her husband were her parents; two sons, Robert and Roger Viers; a grandson, Jerry Viers; two great-grandchildren; two brothers, Clay and Ted Eby; and four sisters, Maude Butts, Verna Stoltz, Jeanette Poorman and Pauletta Johnson.

Funeral services were held December 8, 2005 at the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church with Elder Edward Johnson officiating. Interment in the Smith Cemetery in Fulton County.

MARRIAGES**BROWN-WINGER**

Sister Heidi Brown, daughter of Brother Mark and Sister Betsy Brown of Tuolumne, California and Brother David Winger, son of Brother Dwight and Sister Cynthia Winger of Modesto, California were united in marriage on December 31, 2005. Their address is 1529 Theresa Street, Modesto, CA 95350

MEYERS-SKILES

Sister Jill M. Meyers, daughter of Brother Dale and Sister Janie Meyers and Brother Jonathan D. Skiles, son of Brother Paul and Sister Sarah Skiles were united in marriage, January 7, 2006 at the Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church. Their address is 10400 Universe Blvd. NE, Apt. 214, Albuquerque, NM 87114

NEWS ITEMS

THIRD DISTRICT'S WRITER'S WORKSHOP

March 24-25, 2006

At

Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church

Dallas Center, Iowa

Open to those with a desire to write for the glory of the Lord.

Lodging and meals will be provided for all who register. Each participant will receive a Workbook to guide them through the six sessions and a copy of the book entitled *Secrets of Successful writing* by Dewitt Scott.

Those who plan to attend are urged to send by March 1st any manuscripts they have written and would like evaluated. These manuscripts may be sent to the Bible Monitor Editor for future publication. Mail manuscripts to Keith Bailey, 36 Friendly Circle, Dayton, Ohio 45426. Please put on the manuscript your name, address and telephone number.

Registration will begin at 3:30 P.M. Friday, March 24. Supper will be served at 5:00 P.M. The Friday evening sessions will begin at 6:00 P.M. Participants will receive a full schedule of activities at the time of registration. The last session will end at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, March 25.

This workshop is sponsored by the Publication Board of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Once again we are looking forward to our spring revivals with Bro. Bob Carpenter from Plevna, Indiana starting March 26 and ending April 2. Services will be at 7:30 nightly, Sunday nights 7:00.

Might we pray for Bro. Bob as he sows the seed. Everyone is cordially invited.

Sister Miriam Snyder, Cor.

THANK YOU

The family of Sharon Haney wants to thank the members and

friends of the brotherhood for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and other acts of kindness during Sharon's illness and death.

NOTE OF THANKS

As our two years of service here in Kenya draw to a close, we want to thank our church family for your financial and prayerful support. We appreciate each one who has helped in any way – prayers, food, cards or e-mails of encouragement, funds, telephone calls. We ask that you continue to support the missionaries here as they work in this part of God's vineyard. May God bless you all.

In Him,

Brother Alan and Sister Brenda Meyers

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 2006

April 2 – Growing in Sanctification – I Thess. 4:1-12

1. Define concupiscence.
2. How did the heathen view fornication, and what is the Christian's view?

April 9 – "...and Time Shall Be No More" – I Thess. 4:13-18

1. Why did the Apostle address the brethren about ignorance concerning those who are asleep? What didn't they understand?
2. Do verses 16 and 17 describe the same time and event as I Cor. 15:51-52?

April 16 – Resurrection Sunday – Isaiah 53:1-12

1. What is the implication of the question in verse 8: “Who shall declare his generation?”
2. What or who is the seed that He shall see in verse 10?

April 23 – Will the Day of the Lord Steal from You – I Thess. 5:1-11

1. Does the day of the Lord come as a “thief in the night” to the Church or to the rest of the world?
2. What does it mean for the believer to be sober?

April 30 – Final Exhortations and Benediction – I Thess. 5:12-28

1. How would you describe a feeble-minded person?
2. How can we prove all things?

**YOUNG PEOPLE’S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR
APRIL 2006**

April 2 – Outward Adorning – I Peter 3:3-4; 12-13

1. How does the “identity” principle relate to the subject of outward adorning?
2. How do we adorn or make beautiful the “hidden man of the heart”?

April 9 – Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem – Matt. 21:1-13; Mark 11:1-15

1. What is the meaning of the word Hosanna?
2. What is the significance of Christ riding a colt into Jerusalem?

April 16 – Easter Lesson – Matt. 28:1-8; Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:36-37

1. Why was it so difficult for the disciples to believe the message that the women brought them?
2. When Jesus was risen from the dead, why was it important that He show Himself in bodily form to His disciples and to others?

April 23 – A Surrendered Life – Romans 12:1-21

1. True or false? A life that is not surrendered to the Lord will have a struggle with the principle of “nonconformity”.
2. What is the means or process of renewing one’s mind?

April 30 – Fellowship With Christ – I John 1

1. What is the relationship between fellowship with Christ and fellowship with believers?
2. What is the test of true fellowship with Christ?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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APRIL, 2006

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE HEAD THAT ONCE WAS CROWNED WITH THORNS

The head that once was crown'd with thorns
Is crown'd with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
Belongs to Him by right,
The King of kings, and Lord of lords,
And heaven's eternal Light:

The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below,
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His Name to know.

The cross He bore is life and health,
Tho' shame and death to Him,
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

-Thomas Kelly

HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN

The Jews had been preparing for the coming of their Messiah for centuries. They were sure that it was time for Him to appear and lead them out of their oppression. They knew when He came that they would be restored to their former, favored place in God's sight.

They had read the prophecies many times. They knew He was going to do great things. They would be glad to do anything that would further His kingdom. They were sure if they very carefully observed the Mosaic Law that they would be preparing His way. They relished the benefits that they would again enjoy as God's Chosen People.

They had been too selective in their study of the prophecies

of the Old Testament. The prophets had indeed spoken of a brilliant return of the Messiah, but they also had spoken of Him coming first as a Suffering Savior. They spoke of a humble servant coming not as a great military hero, but as one who would do mighty deeds in individual lives. He would be humble, poor, and identified with the common people. He would teach and heal.

His way would be prepared not by their observance of an imperfect law but by the one who came in animal skins and sandals. John the Baptist awakened people to the possibility of the Messiah coming soon. John denied, when asked, if he was the Messiah. He knew that he had been sent to prepare

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people's minds for the Lamb of God. He knew his work and position so he could not allow the people to honor him instead of the Messiah.

The Messiah did come very shortly after John's ministry began. He came to John at the Jordan River where he had been baptizing. There He also was baptized as He identified himself with sinful men and as He established an example for those who followed. From the Jordan He was driven into the desert to face a testing time, which He passed by overcoming the temptations of Satan. He came not as the conquering hero but as the lowly son of man who faced the same physical, temporal and Spiritual battles as the men He came to rescue. He knew the downside of life, even though He had previously known the glories of Heaven. He was willing to do what ever was necessary to provide relief for the people who would believe and follow Him.

He could have come as they had expected Him but then there would not have been the identification with all men. He could have conquered His enemies, but He set a better example of love and forgiveness. He

wanted to raise their Spiritual understanding above the old standard of law and punishment. He wanted them to know God in a more personal way through the Holy Spirit.

He came, "but his own received him not." Although He healed and taught them, they desired the Messiah of their dreams not this meek and lowly Jesus. He spoke of Spiritual things that created rancor in their hearts because their inability to understand and practice the more important things of a godly life. Eventually they became so incensed at Him that they killed Him.

The various groups that were opposed to Him were united in their desire to be rid of Him to the extent that the Pharisees, Sadducees and the Romans, which were antagonistic to each other, cooperated. They were able to unite to get this troublemaker out of their way. He was altogether too popular with the masses. He was much too demanding when He desired Spiritual living and thought.

Finally, at the Passover season they were able to bring about their purpose. They were able to capture Him with the help of a traitor. They were able to

hold an unjust, unfair trial that was illegal by the very Law they were trying to defend. They were able to get the final condemnation from Pilate, who was more interested in political gain than in righteous judgement. With the mob in charge, the soldiers were able to do their work. They crucified Jesus on the hill near Jerusalem.

They thought they now had the victory. But the victory was short-lived. As the sun on the first day of the week began to break forth in its glory, the glorious discovery was made that death and the grave could not hold Him. He had resurrected. The Lord is Risen!

This is what He had come to do. He had not come as the great conquering military hero who would establish a worldly kingdom. Instead by His death, burial and resurrection He had established a Spiritual kingdom that is worldwide and for all ages. God's Chosen People now were not a small, otherwise undistinguished tribe but His Chosen People are all those who will choose Him as their Savior. He came to conquer Spiritual adversaries not military and political enemies.

His own would not receive Him, will you?

M.C.Cook

JESUS' WORK

John 17:4, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

Jesus Christ has often been called the greatest martyr that ever lived. This remark is usually made by those ignorant of the work of the Son of God. Jesus Christ was not a martyr. It was God's full intention to have Jesus die in order to pay the price for our sins. It was God's will and could not have

been prevented. A martyr is a man whose work on earth has been interrupted by death. Christ's death was part of His work, and His work was the most important series of events in history. God has dealt with man since man's creation. The events leading up to Christ's resurrection are the high point of God's dealing with man.

God did not forgive us because He loves us. He sent His Son to die for us because He

loves us. If His love alone could affect forgiveness, Jesus Christ's death would have been unnecessary. Many today have a false view of God's love. "God would never cast a man into hell", they say. "He loves us too much." But there is a righteousness to God's love. A price must be paid for sin, and in order to be forgiven for sin, the debt of sin must be paid. Jesus paid

that debt. The only sin forgiven by God is that which is under the blood of Jesus Christ.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." Hebrews 2:9

Brother Lynn H. Miller

RISEN WITH CHRIST

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1

Spiritually speaking, verse three tells us, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." In Galatians 2:20 we find, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Verse two instructs us that we are to "Set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth." We hear much today about putting Christ first in our lives and we certainly should

be doing this. But what ever happened to the teaching of giving things up for Christ?

In verses five through eight we find some things that should not be a part of our lives if we are indeed risen with Christ. Fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, and evil concupiscence all speak of a lack of moral integrity.

Covetousness, which is called idolatry, speaks of desiring that which belongs to another. For most of us the "simple life" is anything but simple in our modern day world. We desire to live in luxury and are determined not to let our neighbor, much less a fellow church member, get ahead of us in possessions especially if it involves the

latest technology.

Next we find listed those things that are even more yet "closer to home." Anger, wrath and malice. Does anger sometimes enter into our decisions concerning the actions of others? Is our church order ever swayed by wrath? In place of loving concern, are our words of rebuke sometimes actually malice?

Surely blasphemy is not a problem in our conservative churches. Yet we have to wonder how close we come when we put "the blessing of God" on things what were once considered to be avoided as "worldly."

Have we put all filthy communication out of our mouth? How explicit should we be when we speak about those things that belong within the marriage relationship? What about when speaking of those things that should not be a part of a Christian relationship? We are not suggesting that we avoid warning against such things as homosexuality (even if the state should forbid it) but there is a right and a wrong way to do this.

Verse nine warns us "lie not to one another." If you cannot speak the truth without hurting someone's feelings would it not

be better to just keep quiet rather than speak a falsehood? Is saying "I don't know" when you really do, actually lying?

Verses twelve to fourteen list those things that are positive when we are risen with Christ. Mercies and kindness are the first mentioned. How much our brotherhood can benefit from these qualities. It is wrong to overlook sin in a brother or sister's life but if we have the mercy within us we will be much less harsh in our actions of judgment. An act of kindness not only builds up the church but also many times leads others to follow suit.

Humbleness of mind is harder than it may appear to be. I fear many, if not most, of us are hypocrites in this area if we are completely truthful. It is natural for one to wish to excel in something. An elder or minister may speak as if he is willing to entertain the opinion of others while in his heart he is thinking he knows best. Deacons may seem to show concern and thoughtfulness while seething within that their authority is being ignored. All those given a place of leadership or teaching may feel superior or feel that they are unjustly not

being used. Even those with no leadership desires can silently desire to be heard. This can even apply to things not directly church related.

Meekness is often misunderstood as weakness. A truly meek individual can often also be an individual who takes a strong stand for what they think is right.

Long-suffering is much needed in the church today. It seems, as time goes by there are more and more divisions of thought. This does not mean that corrective action is never taken but it does mean that it should be done very cautiously and with genuine love.

Forbearing one another and forgiving one another is closely related to long-suffering. We

confess that it is difficult for us to completely accept those who appear to be in rebellion to church codes and practices that have stood the test of time until recently. But we are beginning to realize that all must answer to Jesus Christ and not to us.

If we had more genuine forgiveness in the church we would rarely have church splits. We would have fewer bad feelings among members. If we truly forgive someone then we should act like it when we meet him or her and when we talk about them. True charity, love, will take care of everything else!

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A NEW LIFE

Ethel Beck

As spring approaches we see the dead, coming to life. The dead grass comes up green and fresh. The trees appear to be dead, but we see them sending out new green buds, to announce that spring is here. Flowers which show no sign of life as we can see, send up tiny green shoots and leaves. A new life is resurrected from the old dead life. The old life must die

in order for the new life germ to spring out into a new life. "That which thou sowest is not quickened; except it die." (I Cor. 15:36.) What a good comparison to the spiritual life.

After flowers and plants have died down for the winter, there are ugly old stalks still standing. These should be cleaned out so the new growth will have ample room to grow and show up more

effective. Some of these old stalks from the flowers are the works of the flesh still standing in the life of some Christians. They should be cleaned out. "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." (Col. 3:5, 8-10)

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal. 5:19-21.) What a catalogue of ugly things. There are still more if we would look them up. Let us search our hearts and if there still

remains some of these old stalks, let us ask God to clean them out. We must then put better things in place of them.

These deeds or works of the flesh should die with the old life for a new germ has come to life. "And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." (Eph. 1:2.)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24.) "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." (II John 3:14.)

Since there has been a quickening of a new life we see signs of a changed and a different life. We see manifest there, the fruit of the Spirit, (Gal. 5:22-23.), rather than the works of the flesh. It is not that we give up so much to be a Christian, but that we gain so much more. "There-

fore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Cor. 5:17.)

It is not only a "taking off" process but a "putting on" of good things. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things, put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Col. 3:12-17.)

"Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead." (Col. 2:12.)

"Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection. Knowing this, that the old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." (Rom. 6:4-7, 12-14.)

We who have been buried with Him by baptism should be walking in a new life, walking with Christ. We will grow in Him. To grow successfully, there needs to be cultivation to keep the weeds out.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which

are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Col. 3:1-3.) If we do not crown Him "Lord of all" He is not Lord at all. We must let Him have preeminence and rule in the throne of our hearts. If we do not give Him first place, sin will manifest itself in us. We are not only to keep sin out but rise above it, overcome it, filling our lives with the things of God, those things above.

We have two natures. It is up to us which of these will win. The nature that we feel will be victorious. "Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law." (Gal. 5:16-18.) "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Rom. 8:1-2.)

The things we do, show

which nature we are feeding. If we are at every church service whenever possible, instead of some other place, and read our Bible more than any other literature, we are feeding the spiritual nature. If we spend Sunday in a profitable way, like visiting the sick and lonely or in a way to the best interests of Christ's cause, rather than just entertaining ourselves, we feed the spiritual. Do we know the books of the Bible and its quotations better than the names of movie stars or radio stars? Do we spend our money and time for missions and the church and to help some poor and needy soul? Or do we spend both in amusement and unnecessary luxuries? Which nature are we feeding? When we feed the natural man, we need not wonder why we are defeated by the devil. Through Christ alone we have victory. May we all experience daily victory which comes by the daily feeding of the new man.

Paul said, "We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the saviour of His knowledge by us in every place." (II Cor. 2:14.) "But

thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 15:57.)

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (I John 5:4.) "I write unto you young men because ye have overcome the wicked one. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 2:13, 4:4.)

These verses should encourage us to live an overcoming life. We are promised all the needed help and strength to live victoriously. Jesus arose triumphant over death, hell and the grave. He expects us to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. When He comes to take us to Himself we can say, "O death where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" We will be victorious over these also as Jesus was. We will have a glorified body.

Victory over the world comes through faith in a God who is able to work through us and accomplish what we cannot. Prayer will encourage, strengthen and sustain our faith. Let us rely upon it often lest temptation overtake us. The devil works through our

weak points. Therefore we need to be well equipped with the whole armor of God. He expects us to conquer and wants to help us win. Young people, let us not disappoint Him. It is not His will that we live a defeated, up and down life.

Have we ever stopped to consider what condition we would be in if Jesus had not risen from the dead? We would be in a hopeless state. We will hear Paul's explanation of it. "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen; and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins. Then they, also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." (I Cor. 15:13-20.)

We thank God that He raised

up Jesus. We also have the hope He will raise up and give us a spiritual body, not one to suffer pain. We must take heed how we live if we want to enjoy this glorious experience. Jesus must be dwelling within us or He will not claim us.

In Revelation we find many verses which promises a reward to "him that overcometh." He shall eat hidden manna and of the tree of life. He shall not be hurt of the second death and shall have power over nations. He shall be clothed in white raiment and have his name in the book of life. He shall be a pillar in the temple of God and shall sit with Christ in the throne, even as He overcame and is set down with the Father in His throne. He shall inherit all things being the Son of God and receive a crown of life. (Rev. 2:17, 7:11-26, 3:5, 12:21 and 21:7.) "And they overcame him by blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Rev.

12:11.) The first step in overcoming the devil is through the blood of Jesus applied to our hearts. We trust its cleansing power all through our lives. "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7.)

Is it not worthwhile to overcome in this life, and then be "looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ"? (Titus 2:13.)

He lives! He lives!

Christ Jesus lives today,
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.

He lives! He lives!

Salvation to impart,
You ask me how I know He lives,
He lives within my heart.

Selected from the
April 15, 1946 issue of
the Bible Monitor

THE RESURRECTION

Howard J. Surbey

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and behold, he goeth be-

fore you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." Matt. 28:6-7. These women early on the way to the sepulchre, were told of one of the greatest events ever revealed to humanity. After the rapid course of events of the last day, this announcement must have been the most startling, astonishing and comforting news they had ever heard. After witnessing such cruel and speedy treatment of a dear Friend, "He is not here: for he is risen" would certainly be welcome news.

Dear reader, this should be welcome news to you today! It should strengthen your faith in Almighty God in the entire plan of salvation. Actually this is the foundation of the Christian religion. Many things had taken place concerning this Prophet, truly He must have been blessed with the power of God, but alas none was so great as being resurrected from the dead.

Had Jesus ever revealed anything concerning such a miraculous event to His disciples? Yes, He was divine, as well as in the flesh and He had often told His followers of the power of God and the unusual events, which should befall Him. We shall refer to only two: "Behold, we go

up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again." Matt. 20:18-19. Alas all these unusual things had suddenly taken place, however impossible it might seem. Even the enemies of Christ remembered what He had foretold, what would happen and they were concerned about His resurrection. They certainly would not want such a thing to happen, so they came to Pilate, "Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again." Matt. 27:63. As a result Pilate gave them permission to make the tomb, "as sure as you can." A great stone was rolled across the entrance, this stone was sealed with the government seal and a watch of soldiers was placed there to guard it. Certainly now His followers will not steal His body and say, He arose. And they did not but alas, an angel of the Lord opened the entrance to the tomb and Jesus had come forth.

How can all such things hap-

pen? We refer to an earlier prophecy of our Lord, "And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:23-24. Yes Jesus must die but His death will even be more glorious than His life. Alas the Son, who took upon Himself flesh and blood, that He might reveal God's Will to man and atone for man's sins with His own blood, was resurrected with a glorified body. No more do we find that man persecuted and punished Him. He even came in the midst of His followers, on several occasions, the windows and doors being shut for fear of the Jews. We now serve a glorified Lord. Alas One who has even promised that we can be where He is, if we accept Him as our Saviour.

What account did Peter give to the early church concerning the resurrection of our Lord? "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, having

loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it." Acts 2:23-24. Death is the punishment for sin throughout the Bible. However after many attempts upon the life of our Lord, He allowed himself to be taken and slain and buried. But because He had no sin, it was not possible that the pains of death could hold Him and God brought Him forth, just as the prophets of old had said would happen.

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Rom. 6:4. Christ's resurrection was far more glorious than even His life. His life of many miracles was only for three and one half years, but His glorious life will be for eternity. We are baptized in the likeness of His death and after baptism our life should be much more glorious than it was before. Do we walk in newness of life? Alas what a fall and what punishment we deserve, if we again return unto the earthly and sensual ways of the Devil.

The blessings which we can enjoy through Christ are many, but none is so valuable as that

of the resurrection. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits: afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." I Cor. 15:19-20, 23. Am I striving to be Christ's? Is anything else of so much concern in my life? If we

are doing all we can as a follower of Christ, according to His teachings in the New Testament, we need not fear whether we sleep (die) or whether we are faithfully serving Him in life. When His time comes we will be called to "meet Him in the air."

Selected from the
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the Bible Monitor

NONE OF SELF AND ALL OF THEE

It all began in a garden, so long ago,
When our Savior knelt with heart full of woe,
As He cried to His Father, in pain and distress-
If only He wouldn't have to face this test!

The test of His obedience, test of His love;
To be separated from His Father above!
Upon Him would be placed the sins of All;
The sins of each one, because of the Fall!

Oh! But the sins-what were they in comparison
To His Father turning His back upon Him!
In agony Christ sweated great drops of blood;
"Not my will, but Thine" He prayed to our God.

When the soldiers then came, they led Him to trial,
He faced false accusations without one denial.
They threw Him in prison to wait out the night,
Then took Him to Pilate, in early morning light.

Although in Jesus, Pilate found no wrong,
He eventually gave in to the shouting throng.
Pilate sent Christ to be beaten to the point of death,
Causing weakness and shock, burning pain with each breath.

Treating the King of king's with mocking and scorn,
The soldiers then plaited a cruel crown of thorn.
They put a purple robe on Him, as royalty wore,
A reed "scepter" in His hand-to mock Him the more.

They bowed the knee before Him in feign adoration-
"Hail King of the Jews!" came their vile exclamation.
Then they spit upon Him to show their utter disdain,
With the reed struck His crowned head to bring yet more pain.

The heavy beam cross on Christ's poor back they lay,
To carry to Calvary, all the long way.
But in such a weak state, He fell beneath the load-
They found another to carry His cross up the road.

Then they nailed Him upon the cruel rugged tree,
Through His hands and His feet, for you and for me!
Christ's gentle, loving hands with their healing touch
Were held out to the world, He loved us so much!

"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"-
His prayer for the soldiers, for you and me too!
His eyes full of such tenderness and compassion;
For all those who treat His great love with rejection.

But all they had done, to them was not yet enough,
For many mocked and scorned Him with words harsh and rough.
They laughed that He could save others, but then not Himself-
Who cared that He was dying for their spiritual health!

Then His Father in heaven had to turn from Him-
Because God just cannot bear to look upon sin!
"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?!"
With heart-breaking pain, from our Lord came this plea.

Jesus' life-blood flowed down from His head, hands and feet,
Blood that was needed to make the sacrifice complete.
For only His blood can wash away all our sin,
The giving of His life to make us pure within.

"Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit",
Jesus whispered, then died, receiving no merit.
His spirit descended into fiery hell-
Separated from God, a pain, words cannot tell!!

For three very long days He stayed in that place,
With not even one glimpse of His Father's dear face!
Jesus went through this all, instead of you and I,
Because it was us-not Him-who sinned and must die.

If Jesus had not come, but just left us to die,
It would be of no use, no matter how we try
To save ourselves from being Eternally Lost
For without Jesus, Eternal Death is the cost!

The story didn't end in the cold and gray tomb,
For Jesus came to save us from eternal doom!
Then He arose from the grave-over death victorious,
Soon ascended to God-in heaven fair and glorious!

Each of us have sinned, of that there's no denying;
But we cannot save ourselves-for all the trying!!
For this God came to earth through Jesus the Son,
He lived righteous and without sin, not even One!

Thus He became the Atonement for all our sin,
If we accept His gift, then trust and live in Him.
Oh, won't you receive the full plan of Salvation-
That brings forgiveness of sins to All in Each Nation!!

-Sister Lori (Marks) Magley

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

J. H. Moore

Turning from the Wrong

In the early part of my ministry it fell to my lot to do considerable preaching in a locality where the Brethren were very little known. In time several applied for membership, and were baptized. Among them were a man and wife of good standing in the community. They not only united with the church, but they left the world. Everybody could see that they were converted. They did not have to tell people that they were Christians. Their lives told the story, and told it well. To preach to the people in that neighborhood was simply a delight. It was like cultivating corn in a productive soil. One could see the seed of the kingdom grow.

Possibly a year later the brother came to me and said that he and his wife had been at a very worldly Fourth of July celebration. In that part of the country the people did not come together to worship God on the Fourth, but merely for amusement, and the amusement in which they engaged was by no means of the innocent class.

Well, the brother told the whole story, how he and his wife happened to find themselves looking at the dancing on the dancing floor. Finally the wife said, "I believe this is no place for Christians. Let us go home." The brother thought the same way, though the wife spoke first.

But they went home, and after thinking the matter all over, the brother decided to ask me what I thought about it, whether I thought they had done wrong. I told him that in my judgment they had done just right, - not by attending the place of amusement, but by going home. I then added, that if they would always do that way when they got into places where Christians had no business they would greatly please the Lord. I did not tell them to come to the church and make a public confession, but I did tell some of the other members what advice I had given.

That lesson has been useful to me in more ways than one. The importance of turning my back on places unbecoming Christians was forcibly

impressed upon my mind. And really, that is the very essence of vital piety. When one gets into a place where saints have no business, what better thing can he do than to get out of it of his own free will? And then, when one of his own free will does correct a wrong, why not let the matter rest?

I know that some people think that all matters of this kind should be made right before the church. Of course some of them may be of such a public and aggravated character that they should be thus disposed of, but it will be wise to make a reasonable discrimination. I have sometimes urged members to come before the church of their own accord and tell the members just what they had done. But when it was evident that they had done the right thing in correcting their own mistakes I did not care to force a public confession from them.

I want to impress on the mind of each reader that a public, forced confession for a little mistake is not always the best thing to demand. This, of course does not apply to aggra-

vated cases. But when we see that a weak member is doing all he can to amend his ways, or to correct his unintentional mistakes, why not encourage him? That would be Christianlike. In fact that is the course that love would dictate.

In exacting public confessions for mistakes of the character mentioned – if they can be called mistakes – we may go just far enough to discourage some of those who are weak. If they are strong enough to turn away from sin, and then seek the ways of right, the turning ought to be regarded as a sufficient confession. True, with the tongue confession should be made, but oftentimes the turning of the whole body and life from an unintentional wrong speaks much louder than it is possible for words to speak. I would not give one voluntary turning away from error for all the forced confessions ever made. In fact I can hardly make myself believe that any good can result from a forced confession, but I do know that there is virtue in a voluntary departure from sin.

POLITICS AND THE CHRISTIAN

We hear nowadays, that with the appointment of a couple "conservative" judges to the Supreme Court that American Christians have scored a great victory for Jesus and His teachings. We are told that the great sin of abortion will be banned and that Christian values will become the law of the land.

In the past few years, we have also seen increasing pressure for Christians to become involved in politics. We have heard how it is our duty to ensure that America develops and supports Christian values in our laws. We have also heard that displays of the Ten Commandments are essential to our continued prosperity and freedom. In short, we are being told that it is the duty of Christians to join the political struggle to Christianize the government of our country.

All of the arguments presented to persuade us to vote and to become politically active however, have been arguments from emotions, patriotism and logic. There has been no biblical argument. Nowhere have I seen someone point to the teachings of Jesus or one of His Apostles as an example of po-

litical activism. The reason it hasn't been used is that no such teaching exists.

To the contrary, Jesus (as He was standing before the civil authorities) said very plainly "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world then would my servants fight." The same is true today; voting, politicking and lobbying are just more subtle forms of fighting. Furthermore, Paul instructs us, referring to the civil authorities, to be "subject unto the higher powers." How can we be subject to those authorities when we, through voting and participating in government, set ourselves up as the higher powers?

We are blessed by God that we are able to live in a country in which we are free to worship God according to the scriptures without fear of repression or persecution. Surely, therefore, we must have some obligations to the state. I believe we do, but, as in every other area of our lives our participation is clearly taught in God's revealed word.

There are three things, according to scripture, that we should do. First, we must pray for the government (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Second, we must obey

the laws of our country (Romans 13:1) unless they are contrary to the law of God (Acts 4:19). And third, we must pay the taxes levied by the government (Romans 13:6-7).

Citizenship in the kingdom of Christ is exclusive of all others. Even in a free and pros-

perous country like ours, one that seems to support Christian values, we must remember that we are called to be "pilgrims and strangers".

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BIBLE STORY

GOD DID IT

Did you ever wonder how the world that you live in was made? Where the sun you see every day came from? Who made the moon and the stars that shine at night? What makes the green grass grow, the pretty flowers bloom? Who made the ocean and the rivers and the air we breathe? If you are interested in learning all these things and more – the first chapter in the Bible can tell you more than you can learn anywhere else.

The Bible says that God made the earth and the air that is around it. When we want to do anything well, we want plenty of light to see what we are doing so in the beginning God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Then God divided the light from the darkness, and God called the light day and the dark-

ness He called night, and so ended the first day.

The second day God made the sky and the air we breathe.

The third day God caused the water to be gathered together and the dry land to appear. The dry land He called earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas or oceans. Then God made the grass and the trees and all the plants that we use for food.

The fourth day God made the sun to give light by day and the moon by night – and He made the stars also.

Then it was the fifth day, and God made all the fish and big whales and everything that lives in the water, and He made the birds that fly in the air and ducks, chickens, turkeys, and little hummingbirds.

The sixth day God made all the animals – cows, horses, dogs, cats, and all kinds of creeping things, like lizards and turtles – everything that we see, God made them all. After this God saw that everything He made was good and well done – but God wanted to do one thing more, and what do you suppose that was? God said, “Let us make man in our own

image.” So God made a man and woman and put man over all the animals, the birds, the fish in the sea and whatever that God had made. And God told the man that he could use the plants and the fruits of the trees for food. And God saw everything that He made, and behold, it was very good.

Brother Rudy Cover

WORSHIP

D. W. Hostetler

In the 4th chapter of John Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that the Father is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

In I Cor. 16:29, we read that we “should bring an offering and come before Him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” So to bring out the beauty of holiness in worship, our worship must be directed by the Holy Spirit of God, and that spirit directs our worship in harmony with truth. (John 16:13.)

David one time said, “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, come into His courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

If there is any time above all others when we should be honest, sincere, spiritually minded, upright in heart, and really humble, it is when we are on our knees before God in worship.

“Bring an offering,” we are advised. That is, we should bring something to put into the hour of worship that will add to the spirituality and beauty and richness of the service.

It should embrace that combination of qualities which are pleasing to God – holiness, sanctity, piety, sacredness, righteousness, godliness, and real humility. In all our acts of worship we should aim at completeness.

There are things that are in-

corporated in the system of church activities, such as bowling, card playing, skating in rinks, and games, that are highly worldly in character. These certainly cannot develop spirituality and bring out the beauty of holiness in worship.

But there are items of worship that we can employ that will enrich the hour of worship. The first item of worship is that of singing. In I Cor. 14:15, Paul says: "I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." This means intelligent singing. I once listened to a group of singers, and although I was within twenty feet of them, I could not understand a word they sang. That is not intelligent singing. To sing with the spirit and with the understanding is to give expression to the sentiment and doctrinal statements in the song. David one time said, "Sing forth the honour of His name, make His praise glorious. Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him, talk ye of all His wondrous works. My heart is fixed. O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise."

Our singing should be prompted by the motive of praising and worshipping God in the

beauty of holiness.

Another item of worship is prayer. Prayer is an expression of the heart for the soul's real need. We need to know what our needs are. We need to study ourselves to know what we really need. And when we know what we need, then we can pray intelligently.

David said, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker."

Paul said, "I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding." To pray with the spirit will enable the worshiper to pray intelligently, to know and to understand. Worship embraces the idea of bringing adoration to God. It embraces thanksgiving. "Be ye thankful in all things," the great Book of God says.

The reading and teaching of the scripture is a very important item of worship. It was the duty of the scribes to read the law every Sabbath to the people, as they congregated in the synagogue.

When Joshua had conquered Jericho and Ai, he read all the law of Moses to the whole congregation of Israel. We read that Jesus went to Nazareth, His

home town, and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and read the scripture. Paul wrote to Timothy that he should be an example to believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity, "till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

The minister reads the scripture, and brings a message of truth that is instructive, uplifting, and edifying, that the church may be brought into a deeper way of living the truth.

We can have prayer meetings in which someone takes the lead in the reading and teaching

of the Word, that all present may take part in reading and teaching of the Word.

In Sunday school, we have a very important method of reading and teaching the Word of God, so that all may be able to receive the great lessons of truth.

All these methods are important in the matter of worshipping God. They should all be so conducted and carefully guarded so they will bring out the beauty of holiness in our worship.

Selected from the
April 1, 1946 issue of
the Bible Monitor

DECENTLY AND IN ORDER

I Corinthians 14:40, "Let all things be done decently and in order."

When people from the outside come among us, what do they see? Do they see serious congregations of people whose lives have been changed by a relationship with Jesus Christ, or do they see well-meaning people with noticeable faults? If we look upon a beautiful face, but that beautiful face has a scar on it, we focus our attention on the scar. Often the beauty is

ignored.

Public meetings such as worship services have to be conducted in an orderly fashion so that all may benefit. Verse 3 of I Corinthians 14 says, "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort." In order that all may be edified, distractions need to be eliminated. I Timothy 3:15 exhorts us, "that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of

the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." How should we behave?

General Conference is coming up. People from other churches come among us. They come to fellowship and hear the Word. What would prevent them from joining with us? Is our behavior a factor? Do some folks seem more interested in driving people away than drawing them? The gospel we preach has drawing

power, but we cannot afford to distract others and blind them to the real truth of God's Word.

Every aspect of our gathering together has to be decent and in order. Gossiping must cease; couples must curtail their physical attraction for one another. There is a time and place for everything. Let us come together to worship and fellowship and leave the rest behind.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

SINGING CLASS

J. H. Moore

Years ago a blind man came to our meetinghouse to conduct a singing-class. He was an expert in music and knew how to teach it. His books were made for the blind. By passing his fingers over the raised lines he could read readily. He needed no light to read by. The first evening the lamps in the meetinghouse gave very poor light, so much so that most people could not see to read. The blind teacher did not know the difference. He called out the number of the hymn and proceeded

to sing. As the people could not see well but few of them helped to sing. A preacher in the congregation then rose and remarked that the blind man was more fortunate than most people, for he could read whether there was any light or not. Everybody smiled. The blind man said he never thought of it in that way before. Possibly more of us might take that view of our misfortunes.

Selected from Our
Saturday Night

OBITUARY

DORCAS M. ROUNDS

Dorcas Marie Rounds, 50, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, died peacefully at Rockingham Memorial Hospital Saturday, January 21, 2006.

She was born October 27, 1955, in Harrisonburg, Virginia and was the daughter of the late Albert Nathaniel Rounds and Mary Orpha (Early) Rounds.

Dorcas attended the Dayton Dunkard Brethren Church all her life. She loved to go to church. She will be greatly missed by all her friends.

She was a resident of Pleasant View Inc. – Moyers Apartment since March 1998. She was involved in the Community Connection Program and participated in many Pleasant View social gatherings. She was an avid lover of dolls and animals, especially monkeys and dogs.

She is survived by her twin brother, Doyle Lee and sister-in-law, Darlene Burkholder Rounds, of Bridgewater, Virginia; brother, Nevin Dale Rounds and sister-in-law Bonnie Borenstein-Rounds of Loxahatchee, Florida; one niece, Rachael Sara Rounds of Birmingham, England; one nephew, Benjamin Joseph Rounds of Mechanicsville, Virginia; uncle, Lester Bittinger, Mt. Solon, Virginia. The Rev. David Gullman conducted the funeral service at the Johnson Funeral Service in Bridgewater, Virginia. Burial followed in the Pleasant View Cemetery in Dayton, Virginia.

NEWS ITEMS

CORRECTIONS

The set dates for Lovefeasts in two congregations were inadvertently listed incorrectly in the February, 2006 Bible Monitor. The correct set date for the Grandview Congregation is the third Saturday of April. The correct set date for the Englewood Congregation is the Fourth Saturday of October. Hopefully, this correction will prevent any confusion as those dates approach.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center, Iowa Congregation is planning our Spring Revival Meetings, beginning March 26 through

April 2. Bro. Keith Bailey will be our evangelist. There will be a Lovefeast service on April 1. We invite all to come and worship with us.

Sister Mary Meyers, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans a Spring Revival, April 9 through 16, with Bro. Keith Snyder as our evangelist.

Preaching services each evening start at 7:30 P.M. Saturday, April 15, at 2:00 P.M. is our examination service with Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M.

Your presence and prayers are welcome.

Sister Margaret Birt, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

We are looking forward to our Lovefeast weekend, April 14, 15 and 16. Bro. Phil Gish is to be the speaker. Services will start Friday evening at 7:30, Saturday at 2:00 and 7:00 and on Sunday at 7:30 for morning worship, 9:30 and 2:00. Pray for these services. All are cordially invited to come and worship with us.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation will be holding their Spring Revival with Bro. Dennis Myers from the Dallas Center Congregation, April 16 through 23. May we remember Bro. Dennis as he prepares for these revivals and may we prepare our hearts to receive the Word. All are welcome to come and enjoy these revivals with us.

Our Spring Lovefeast will be on April 30 to which all are welcome, also.

Sister Darlene Longenecker, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Bro. Steven Aldinger will be holding Spring Revival Meetings at Swallow Falls Congregation beginning on Saturday, following the close of District Meeting, with services twice on Sunday, April 16 and then continue each night for one week. All are welcome to come and worship with us.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 2006

May 7 – Growing in Faith Through Persecution – II Thess. 1:1-12

1. What “persecutions and tribulations” were the Thessalonians suffering?
2. How can the “Lord Jesus Christ” be glorified in anyone?

May 14 – MOTHER’S DAY – Exodus 2:1-10

1. Why would the daughter of Pharaoh have compassion on a lowly Hebrew child?
2. Is it common for God to use the adversary to nurture His people?
Can you think of similar instances throughout the Bible?

May 21 – Left Behind? – II Thess. 2:1-12

1. Has that man of sin been revealed?

2. Who will receive strong delusions and why?

May 28 – Obtaining the Glory of the Lord – II Thess. 2:13-3:5

1. Who is that “wicked” to be revealed whose working is after Satan?
2. Who receives strong delusions?

YOUNG PEOPLE’S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 2006

May 7 – Pride – Psalms 10:2-4; Prov. 16:18-19; Luke 18:10-14; I John 2:15-17; Rev. 3:17

1. If we keep God in all our thoughts can we still have a problem with pride?
2. Is it possible for us as a conservative people to fall into an attitude or state in which we thank God that we are not as other men are?

May 14 – Mother's Day–Deut. 27:16; Matt. 15:4-6; Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20

1. In Matthew 15:4, what is "the death"?
2. What is meant in Eph. 6:2 "Which is the first commandment with promise?"

May 21 – Doctrine – I Tim. 4:6 & 15-16; I Tim. 6:3 & 21; II John 9-11; Jude 3

1. How does the Dunkard doctrine compare to Biblical doctrine?
2. Compare doctrine to truth.

May 28 – Vanity – Psalms 39; Psalms 62:7-12; Eph. 4:17-20

1. If God is my salvation and my glory can I still be caught up in vanity?
2. Is there a chance that we may have our understanding darkened and become alienated from God?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXXIV

MAY, 2006

NO. 5

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HYMN FOR MOTHER'S DAY

O God, we thank Thee for the gifts
That come from Thee alone,
And chiefly for that mother's love
Which is so like Thine own!

The love that shields our infancy,
The love that guides our youth,
That shows the wonders of Thy law
The glories of Thy truth.

We pray that Thou wilt greatly bless
Our Mothers on this day,
With treasures from Thy heavenly store
That cannot pass away

We pray that sons and daughters all
May ever loyal be,
And may our mother's prayers fulfill
By truly serving Thee.

BACK TO THE JUNGLE

The more intelligent and more creative people become, the more they ignore God. As they forget that God is the Creator and sustainer of this world, they fathom themselves to be in charge. As they take credit for all the advances in health care, in technological marvels of the age, in economic riches of the system and supposedly superior behavior of men, they feel in charge.

They have made scientific discoveries, but they have created nothing, but what God had long ago created. They slowly discovered the various laws of science, which God established when He put the planet into its rotation. These discoveries have led to advances in our lives, but they have always been there,

waiting for men to finally catch on to what God has known all along. God knows the first from the last and allows men to discover these laws as they are able to utilize them to improve the lives of this world's inhabitants.

Many who have been permitted to use and develop these God-given laws have become bold in their worship of man's ability and craftiness. This attitude not only affects the scientific community and their attitude towards their work. This attitude affects consumers of these goods and services. As they see the marvels that come out of laboratories and the new products out the factories, they feel they are close to being able to control their lives without outside

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interference. They do not need any direction from Above. With all this intelligence and production, they soon begin to worship the creature more than the Creator. They can see the productions and ruminations of the scientists and inventors, but they can not distinguish the works of God.

As they lose touch with a personal God, they may realize there is an impersonal intelligence beyond this world but they are not very concerned about it. If there is some supernatural being out there in the realms of the unknown, it does not have much influence upon their lives. With all the advances of the age they feel so in charge that they do not need any outside direction.

As they lose their need for and their awe of God, they do not allow Him to direct them. They may pay lip service toward Him, but He is not vital in their lives. Their scientific discoveries and technological inventions put them in control of their lives. As they do not need His interference or direction, they become self-directed. They are open to current fads and fancies. They can make their own choices. Their choices are often predi-

cated upon what feels good or what can be done with the least effort. They do not have a solid foundation upon which to base their choices, so they will choose what most appeals to their physical desires.

As they give in to their human desires, without reference to a Godly standard, they will become more and more estranged from God. They will choose ways that are farther and farther from His standard. As they leave behind all reliance upon God and His Word, they will give in to the baser instincts that imitate the animals of this world.

With their worship of the scientific community they accept that community's explanation for life. They feel the reasonableness of the evolutionary teaching that comes from self-directed individuals. As they internalize this teaching it begins to affect their way of living. If evolution is true, then humans are just a higher form of the animals. As they forget that God has made man higher than the animals and has given him an eternal soul, they begin to resemble the animals of the field and forest. In their recreation, their ethics, their morality, their personal encoun-

ters they begin to behave like animals.

As they seek partners, they lose their sense of decency, truthfulness and morality. Many of the activities of these self-driven people are to seek personal satisfaction and enjoyment without regard to the well being, happiness or satisfaction of their partner. All is centered in having fun. There is little regard for the feelings or the safety of another person. There is no concern about the God they have offended and ignored.

A person who has not considered the claims of God upon their life will face eventually the

wrath of a spurned God. God made the animals to be under the dominion of humans, not to be the teachers of men in their relationships. Humans can not take their ideals from the community that promotes the belief in evolutionary theory and expect to please God. Either men must live as the God has proposed and provided for him or they must face the wrath of an Almighty God who does not take lightly the misuse of His laws and creation.

Are you sure that you are worshipping the Creator more than the creature?

M.C.Cook

GLORY TO GOD

Revelation 1:6, "...to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Our goal and desire should be to honor and glorify God. Everything in our life should be geared to that end. Modern "Christianity" lifts up man, glorifies the preacher, and so embellishes the meetinghouse that it resembles the cathedrals of the Dark Ages. Deception is rampant. There is no resemblance to the lowly Jesus anywhere in today's churches. Even those of

the Anabaptist persuasion have begun to resemble the Protestant churches that persecuted them.

What does the Bible say? Those who wrote the New Testament for the most part were persecuted and executed for their faith. Today's "Christian" will not even bow his head to ask God's blessing on his food when eating publicly. He marvels at how well he blends in at the work place. God is not glorified in these situations. Jude 25 says,

"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." He has saved us, lifted us out of the miry clay of sin, established our goings, and is even now preparing a place for us. Edgar Page said it better than I can in his hymn, "Beulah Land":

I've reached the land of corn and wine,
And all its riches freely mine;
Here shines undimmed one blissful day,
For all my night has passed away.

My Savior comes and walks with me,
And sweet communion here have we;
He gently leads me by His Hand,
For this is Heaven's borderland.

O Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land,
As on thy highest mount I stand,
I look away across the sea,
Where mansions are prepared for me,
And view the shining glory shore,
My heaven, my home forever more!

Can we see this beautiful place by faith? Do we have our bags all packed, ready to depart? If Jesus Christ has saved your soul and you truly have peace within, you will be looking for that city, whose builder and maker is God.

Most of all, you will not be able to keep it to yourself. Look at the Samaritan woman in John 4:29. When she discovered who Jesus was and how He could save her, she went into the city and told them, "Come, see a

man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" They came, and they saw and Jesus blessed them.

"I will praise thee, O Lord, my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name forevermore." Psalm 86:12. A prayer of David.

Someday we will be gathered around that beautiful throne and cast our crowns at His feet. We will worship and adore Him and sing praises unto Him. Why is it that so few of us

do this now? Does our worship praise Him? Does our singing and preaching and praying glorify Him? Do we tell others?

Can they see that we have been with Jesus?

Brother Lynn H. Miller

A GODLY MOTHER

Paul R. Myers

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him: Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there." I Sam. 1:27-28

Emerson one time wrote, "Men are what their mothers make them." Abraham Lincoln attributed much of his success to his mother, when he issued this statement, "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." John Quincy Adams made this statement, "All that I am, my mother made me." D. L. Moody is quoted as saying, "All that I ever have accomplished in life I owe to my mother."

Do we give to our mothers their due credit? Not only at the occasion of Mother's Day, but every day throughout the year? Certainly godly mothers have wielded a good influence upon their offspring.

When we think of the Bible character Samuel, we are made to think also of his mother, Hannah. Her influence in his life is vividly seen. The influence of a godly mother is beyond our estimate. The Bible lesson of Hannah reveals some of the things that make the influence of a godly mother very effective. She exercised a prayer life. She was a praying mother. The very name Samuel means "Asked of God". She had prayed to God for a son and God heard her prayers and answered them. I believe she not only prayed for Samuel before he was born, but that she prayed for him much after he was born.

A sailor who had spent a night in sin, far from his home, upon retiring, made this statement to his bunk buddy, "My mother's prayers haunt me like a ghost." He could not forget his remembrance "When mother prayed."

On a certain occasion when

a young minister had sat down, after delivering his first sermon, he leaned over to the minister sitting beside him and made this statement, "I know my mother was praying for me and it helped me." Certainly the prayers of mother help her children.

I believe that Samuel was often strengthened by the thought that his mother was praying for him. A minister named J. H. Ainsworth has well said, "A mother's prayer is a thought of love passing up to the universal heart of God, and then returning, enriched with God's own blessing, sent on its way to the particular soul for whom the prayer was offered." Many examples could be given of the holy influence of prayers of a godly mother. We, as children need your prayers, Mothers, do not ever stop praying.

The recorded prayer of Hannah is brief. It was offered when she was in trouble. Her prayer was secret, she spake in her heart: only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. When she included in her prayer a vow, proves that she had faith her prayer would be answered. Studying her prayer is time well spent. We have Hannah making a dedicatory vow, "and she

vowed a vow". If more mothers would dedicate their children unto the Lord, it oftentimes would make unnecessary the many efforts and tears and prayers to regain or redeem their wasted lives in later years.

Today many babes are born of godless mothers. Mothers who never were on praying terms with God. Many babes coming into the world are not wanted. What a sad comparison with the birth of Samuel? And what an advantage a child has who is born into a Christian home! That child can say in after years as the Psalmist David in Psalm 16:6, "I have a godly heritage."

There must be love within a mother's heart to be a godly mother. Hannah loved her son. She also loved God. Because of her love to God she gave her son over to service of God, as long as he might live.

She was quite willing to sacrifice by devoting her son to the service of God, in return for the answer to her prayer. The offer was made out of love. And what love, other than the love of God and Christ, exceeds a mother's love? The love of a godly mother is wonderful, and can hardly be expressed. Yet it can

be seen and felt. Mothers, oftentimes, go through the valley and shadow of death to bring their babe into the world.

A mother will sacrifice the things she rightly needs for herself that her babe may have.

Her time is not her own. Her desires are not her own. They are displaced from herself for her child. Mother's love never wears out.

"Her love outlasts all other human love,

Her faith endures the longest, hardest test,
Her grace and patience through a life-time prove,
That she's a friend, the noblest and the best."
No one can estimate the influence of one pious

mother. "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world" is a very old saying, nevertheless very true. It is said of John Newton that he learned to pray at his mother's knee. Her influence in his life was so great that when he faced dangers at sea in later life, he prayed, "My mother's God, have mercy on me!"

History records that over a generation ago, a young school-teacher by the name of Martha Campbell greatly desired to be a missionary. She wanted to help fallen humanity. She wanted to contribute to the advancement of Christ's cause here on earth. She repeatedly prayed to that very end. But God, for some reason, did not answer her prayer that she might go and perform this wonderful work, personally.

However, He did hear the

prayer of the godly mother, and he did answer it according to His will. He did not send her. Instead he sent her two sons that were very active in the missionary field. He sent her three daughters, who with their husbands were missionaries. He answered her prayers.

Countless more instances could be referred to, that are recorded, where the lives of mothers influenced the lives of her children. The Bible teaches, "To train up a child". Hannah was preparing her child Samuel, before he was born. While I believe the Bible holds out the teaching, that what Hannah did for Samuel, she did for his benefit, nevertheless, God did not do it all for Samuel. He remembered Hannah. She was compensated by God for her effort.

T. DeWitt Talmadge, a min-

ister of the Gospel summed up, in a few words, concerning Hannah, thus, "For all the coats Hannah made for Samuel, for all the prayers she offered for him, for the discipline she exerted over him, she got abundant compensation in the piety, and the usefulness and the popularity of her son Samuel. And that is true in all ages of all godly praying mothers. When

mother's prayers are answered in behalf of her children's spiritual welfare, it brings to her heart joy and happiness.

I believe many a godly mother has been troubled and fought many a battle in her heart, because of a wayward son or daughter. I believe if she has won that battle, it was won through prayer, as Hannah won.

The greatest battle that was ever fought-
Shall I tell you where and when?

On the maps of the world you will find it not:
It was fought by the mother of men.

Selected from the May 1, 1960
issue of the Bible Monitor

FROM A MOTHER'S HEART

Our Brianna went to be with Jesus in August of 2001 and in these past four years we have learned so much. We have been encouraged to share with you so that when you are put in the position of supporter you can be a comfort to those who need you. As best as we can we made up a do and don't list. Remember every situation is different so these may not apply in all cases.

1. Please realize everyone's grief is different. Do not say, "I

know exactly how you feel." NO, YOU DO NOT! You may have lost a child, but no one knows exactly how another person feels.

2. NEVER say he/she is in a better place. Because you know what, we will shake our head in agreement but we have just shut you out. The reason is in our head we know that but our heart is broken. At that point we do not want to hear comforting words we just want our child back.

3. Just send a card or a phone call to say, "Hello, I love you and I'm praying for you." Whenever the thought comes to you it is probably God telling you they need some attention today so DON'T ignore it! Sometimes we can not understand why God did not take us too, so just to know we are loved and cared for makes a big difference.

4. As time goes on we will be able to think more rationally – just be patient. It is all about unconditional love.

5. When I am not at church, don't prejudge, just give me a call the next week and say you missed me. Sometimes church is a very hard place to go because there are so many people and so many memories. It's not that we don't want to be with you it is just we have too much to work through and it can be overwhelming.

6. Be there to take care of those mundane things that we can not think of right now. Meals, dishes, laundry, housework, and so forth. On the subject of childcare be cautious. After Brianna died, our son Sterling was the only reason I got up in the morning. I knew he still needed me and I needed him just as much. I did not want

to be separated from him most of the time. Since situations vary just be there with an open heart.

7. Sometimes in our grief we are rude. Please forgive us. Try not to be offended, WE NEED YOU!

8. Even though it may be uncomfortable for you, let me cry on your shoulder and talk. You do not have to talk or give advice; just let me vent my feelings.

9. DO NOT push us to clean out the child's room. We will be ready sometime and then be available to help, if we want it.

10. Whether we have ten children or two, whether it was a miscarriage, stillbirth, or some other death, DO NOT say, "at least you have.....children." Each child is special and can never be replaced!

We had time to say our good-byes but some people do not. Keep in mind that that will have an effect on how they are coping. We were very blessed by people in our church, friends and family during our time of grief but some people do not have a support group like that so try to be aware of their resources.

I hope these ideas will be

helpful to you as you reach out in your church and community. Remember just love them and let them know you are there for them!

We had some people who even remembered us on Bri's

birthday and glory day, what a blessing those cards and calls were. Any kindness you can think of is helpful.

In His Love,
Sister Valerie Noecker

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

J. H. Moore

The Mother and the Daughter

It was my first visit to the brick meetinghouse. I enjoyed the sermon very much, and made a few remarks myself. I was much pleased with the hearty greeting I received after meeting. When one is from home, it does his soul good to find kindred spirits. I accepted an invitation to dine with one of the good old deacons. His wife seemed the perfection of kindness. She introduced me to their daughter, a real intelligent young lady. I was pleased to find such an entertaining daughter in a brother's family. As we drove down the pike, she seemed perfectly delighted with some good steps taken by the District Meeting, just then over.

The carriage had hardly stopped in front the commodious house, till she was out, and passed up the graveled walk on

a run. By the time I reached the house with her mother, she had the fire in the base-burner in a perfect glow, for it was yet cool, and was ready to take my overcoat and hat, and helped me to the best rocking-chair in the house. For one solid hour she entertained me in a real, brilliant way. She understood music, history, had a good stock of general information, and knew almost as much about the Brotherhood and our leading writers and preachers as I did. Her father seldom said anything, though he seemed interested. All the while I could hear the quick steps of the mother in the kitchen. I must confess that I did not altogether enjoy the conversation, for somehow I thought that the young lady ought to be out in the kitchen, helping her mother.

When we walked out into the dining-room and I saw that good old mother wiping the perspiration from her face and neck with that long blue apron, I could not help pitying her. The table was literally piled full of good things. While eating it occurred to me that it would have looked a great deal better if the young woman could have prepared the meal, and let the good old mother have a little rest. Possibly the meal

might not have been as well gotten up, and then, possibly, the mother could not have entertained me so well. However, let that be as it may, one thing is certain, if I had been a young man, looking for a wife, I believe I would never have stopped at that place. Somehow, I have very little confidence in daughters who will not help their mothers, and will not do what they can to make their burdens lighter.

THAT'S MY DAD

My dad lived before the days of blaming every problem you have on something that happened in your childhood. He didn't know that the fact he never knew the one who bore him (his mother died of scarlet fever when he was only sixteen days old), or that losing his father in an accident when he was eight years old was reason to be dysfunctional.

Money was very tight for his widowed stepmother and at the age of twelve Daddy was sent out to board at a neighboring farmer's home where he worked as a hired hand. He didn't know that gave him any reason to feel rejected or unable to contribute to society.

At a mere seventeen years

of age he went over to Italy with a shipment of cattle that was being sent over by the Church of the Brethren for relief. His trip ended up being about four months long because he got hepatitis while over there and he had to spend weeks at a foreign hospital with no one who knew him or could speak his language. Through all this he didn't get depressed or demand an answer from God as to "Why?" His resilience to life's trials refined him and made him "better" rather than "bitter".

He never thought he had to have the best in most things, but somehow he got the "best wife in the world", or so he told us children. We believed him because he said it so often and

with such sincerity.

He never considered anything but faithfulness to Mom when she and Dad faced major health problems with my brothers; a rare hereditary problem called hemophilia that came through her genes. When the medical bills were high and the books at the end of the year showed more red than black, declaring bankruptcy was not an option he would have considered. He did not lament – he just rolled up his shirtsleeves and worked harder, paying off one bill at a time.

He did not think about opting out of the responsibility of being a good dad simply because he lost his own father when he was so young. He did what he knew to do – a willing learner and a diligent pursuer of that which was good. He taught us not only by word but also by his life what it means to crown Jesus as Lord and King of our lives. He was very faithful in

leading our family in devotions and taking us to the Throne in prayer.

So who taught him that the way to be a good father was to work with us children, play with us, laugh and pray with us? In looking back, he did it all in such right proportions. And how did he know it was so important to praise and encourage us when he did not have a father to do that in his life?

The world may now see him as an “old man” and not really know much about him, but tears flow as I reflect, and I’d like to show honor and respect to this man who made something of his life and gave us children a wonderful home.

Yes, that’s MY DAD!

Submitted by Sister Sally Meyers whose father suffers from Alzheimer’s. In a future article I will share a little about our family’s experience of caring for an aged parent with this disease.

LIGHT AGAINST DARKNESS

Ethel Beck

Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

(John 8:12.) He who was Light and Life made a great contrast to those living in sin and darkness. All who did not obey the

Light walked in darkness. "And this is the condemnation, that Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the Light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought of God." (John 3:19-21.) Those who do not want their sins to be known continue to walk in darkness.

But we need not commit great sins to be walking in darkness. If we believe not on Him, we are condemned already. Jesus gives us a wonderful opportunity to turn from darkness. "I am come a Light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." (John 12:46.) If we have not already been born into His kingdom, let us believe on Him and let Him save us from sin.

The world takes notice of the contrast, of one who has been living a sinful and degraded life and turns to the Light. They notice an entirely different life.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;

that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins." (1 Peter 2:9, Col. 1:13-14.)

He not only calls us out of darkness, and translates us into His kingdom; but delivers us from the power of darkness. So we walk no more in darkness (sin) but in the light as He leads us on. "If we walk in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7.) As we keep walking in the light we have love and fellowship with each other and with Jesus. As we walk, we have the continual cleansing of His blood. Walking implies action, no place to stop.

Not long ago I read an article on "Contrasts" which is good to pass on a few paragraphs. "Ye are not of the world," said Jesus concerning His disciples. The Christian presents a contrast to the non-Christian not only in deliverance

from the power of sin, but in relation to life's objective. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him," wrote the beloved disciples. The line of contrast is sharply drawn. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate," leaves no room for compromise with sin. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free," is an exhortation to holiness of life. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," calls for separation from worldly associations and alliances.

"Contrasts, yea, a subject worthy of our consideration for sometimes the contrast in a Christian's life is not as marked as it should be. So many things enter in which is unchristlike; so many voices allure from the high standard set in the word of God. Never should there be timidity concerning maintaining a sharp contrast between the life of a non-Christian and a Christian. The greater the contrast the clearer is the witness for the Master. A dare to be different is the high privilege of the Christian. Not always easy or always tending to popularity; it may invoke criticism, ostracism, but it brings eternal dividends. The

Lord knows and approves and rewards His faithful children, the overcomers, and the Word of God presents no greater contrasts than the eternal states of the believer and the non-believer, showing that contrasts in this life are but a forecast of the contrasts in the life to come."

Do we as members of the Dunkard Brethren Church dare to be different, and a contrast to the world, in our business transactions, social life, in our work and recreation, in our conversation, conduct, and appearance? Others should be able to see a marked difference in these various phrases of our life. "For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (II Cor. 4:6.)

Let us consider these phrases mentioned. Are our business transactions honest and fair to all concerned? Do we exact no more than we are willing to pay, considering the value of the purchase? Do we put the Golden Rule into action? Is our social life on a higher standard than that of the world? Are our associates of the right kind, are they Christians? When

working for pay do we give them full time, or even a little over to finish what we started? Or do we watch the clock? "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men." "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." (Eph. 6:6-7, Col. 3:23.)

When choosing our recreation is it such that is profitable to our physical body, educational or of spiritual benefit? We need to balance these up. The spiritual benefit should not be last but first. We need a certain amount of bodily exercise in the fresh air and sunshine. But let us not spend all our recreation in this way. There are things which are educational which also are a help in our spiritual life. "Grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Is our conversation and conduct such as the world expects of Christians? I'm afraid we disappoint them at times. Even though they do wrong they expect us to say and do the right things. They are apt to criticize us when we do not act as Christians should, and they have a

right to. "Let our speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." (Col. 4:6.)

"Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart." (Psa. 15:1-2.)

Is our appearance a contrast to that of the world? Or do we like to dress somewhat like the world so we will not be conspicuous? There should be a marked difference in our attire, from our head-gear down to our shoes. Since the women wear such short dresses, of course it does make quite a contrast to ours if we follow the church standard of length. Is it more important to go by the present style or by a Christian standard? Which way would please the Lord? Shall we make sure of pleasing God, or people? "Love not the world."

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or

what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." (II Cor. 6:14-17.)

Notice all the contrasts in these verses, they show that light and darkness do not go hand in hand but are opposites. We should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers as partners in any walk of life.

Since the creation we have light and darkness, right and wrong, good and evil, righteousness and unrighteousness. Or I should say we have all the bad things since sin entered. These all work against each other. God pronounced His creation good until Satan brought in evil.

We are composed of soul, spirit and body. They are closely connected. Our being was made for good-will, harmony, to love and to enjoy the best things in life. From childhood up, our adversary tries to destroy all

things which make for peaceful living. We find that anger, resentments, hate, fear, worry, anxiety and envy are enemies of calmness, peace, love, trust, faith and meekness. A doctor said worry and fear produced more stomach ulcers than any other cause. Anger, resentments and hate fill the body with poison and are known to make people actually seriously ill. When the cause of these evils were removed the patient improved immediately. It is also claimed that 60 to 80 percent of diseases are traced back to spiritual and mental ailments. We have a nature to trust in something. It will either be God or self on the throne. When self rules we harbor wrongs and one thing leads to another, we are miserable. When we hand over our life to Christ to rule, then there will be peace, love and harmony. He only allows such things to come to us which are for our spiritual good. If we are in touch with Him we will take the right attitude to things which happen which we have no control over. He meant for us to live a happy, contented life with all trust and faith in Him. Then there will be no fear, worry or anxiety, all anger, resentments

and evil influences will be put out of our life, for Jesus will have the mastery. If any of these things trouble us let us immediately take them to God in prayer, and make all wrongs right. If there are misunderstandings they will rob us of our peace, let us have an understanding with each other and be at peace and the joy of the Lord will be ours.

"Thou wilt keep him in per-

fect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee." (Isa. 26:3.)

May our lives be filled with the Light so we shall escape the terrible darkness reserved for the wicked. This light illumines our whole being.

Selected from the May 1,
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Monitor

THE DANGER OF A BIBLICAL "CULTURE" EXPOSITION

"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convince the gainsayers." Titus 1:9 (Requirement of a bishop (elder) but true for all believers.)

"This witness is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith." Titus 1:13

A culture exposition of the Bible is making Scriptural standards to be only a part of the culture of the time they were given and not binding on those of our time. To one extent or another, this has become the position of the vast majority of groups and denominations in our present day, though it started over a hundred years ago.

Political activism is present in the groups that espouse this teaching. Yet adhering to a current culture standard takes precedence over living out a biblical principle. It is quite possible that our Brethren forefathers foresaw this danger and therefore encouraged members not to be involved in politics. The Dunkard Brethren also recognized this danger included it in our polity (page 7, Article VII – nonconformity, Sec. 1. "We advise all our members not to take part in politics or political matters.")

The head veiling (or covering) for our sisters is possibly the predominant item that has been dealt the deathblow because of this theology. Closely following

this was women cutting their hair.

Second, only because we see it, as "lesser importance" is the practice of the holy kiss. In most gatherings this has been replaced with a friendly handshake. (Some Brethren groups still practice it only at their Lovefeast.) Mostly Pentecostal or Charismatic groups have replaced it with a "holy hug." A few have gone to the other extreme and practice the holy kiss (many more the "holy hug") between brothers and sisters.

Feet washing has to be included with these other two. Today most teach that "washing someone's feet" has been replaced by doing a good deed. This takes this sacred act from the confines of the Church and places it into society. It also ignores the plain teaching of Jesus Christ Himself on the subject.

Women preachers has expanded from the Holiness and Pentecostal (who came from the Holiness) movements to the majority of churches today. While some try to prove that the First Century Church had women in leadership by Bible interpretation from the Greek, the most used argument is that

it was a restriction left over from Judaism.

The acceptance of homosexuality, a seemingly growing problem, is an issue that is covered over by the explanation that it is only a "culture" issue. Some have tried to make it an "Old Testament prohibition" but it is clearly condemned in the New Testament as well. A few have tried to make it an issue of "being faithful to one partner." But Romans chapter one is very explicit on what it involves. It is true that this sin is no worse than adultery or fornication but that only shows God's hatred of all sexual sin, not an absolution of one over the other.

Another aspect of this problem is a lack of respect for other cultures. One of the weaknesses of missionary efforts, according to what we have read, is that many times more emphasis is put on spreading the American way of life than on Bible teaching. A missionary is to take the true Gospel to those who either have never heard it or have rejected it for another religion. It is not their place to take part in overthrowing a corrupt form of Government. It is true that converts may come to the realization that they can not

be obedient to a Government that forbids spreading of the Gospel and even in a few countries forbids changing religions. But this should be the result of the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit in an individual's life, not a part of the teaching. It is also true that a culture may allow things prohibited in Holy Scripture. Such things cannot be overlooked to appease those who wish to follow such actions. Though we do not believe it is wrong to teach the English language to others, and it is probably the most known language in the world, it is better if the native language can be learned also if possible.

Right here in America there are many cultural practices for-

bidden by Scripture, according to our understanding. Such things as wearing jewelry, make up and certain articles of clothing are condoned by most churches because they are part of our culture.

The Apostle Paul was both a Jew and a Roman citizen and he acknowledged both. But he was not subservient to either culture but lived and taught the truths given by the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit with the approval of God the Father. All the New Testament writers held to this exposition. Let us also be true to the Word of God.

Brother James M. Hite
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BIBLE STORY

A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE

The second chapter of Genesis tells us how God did some of the things that are told about in chapter one. God formed man out of the dust of the earth, and then God breathed into man the breath of life and man became a living soul. Man was made in the image of the form of God. He was God's highest creation on this earth.

God wanted the man that He had formed to have a beautiful place to live so He planted a garden – not a garden like we think of – but a place in which were all kinds of trees that were pleasant to look at with flowers of all colors and shapes, fragrant and of great beauty, foliage that would give shade, all kinds of fruit trees so that man could

have something to eat. In this wonderful place there was a river which watered the garden, and it was so large that it divided into four rivers that went out in different directions. It must have been a very large place indeed! So God took the man and placed him in this beautiful place to live and to take care of the garden.

And God made all the animals and birds out of the ground and brought them to the man, Adam, and whatever Adam called them, that was their name. How would you like to name all the birds and animals? I think I would run out of names, wouldn't you?

Adam must have been a pretty busy man with all the garden to care for and naming the animals, but with all this, Adam got lonesome. God had made male and female of all the animals, but for Adam there was no mate. So God caused Adam to go to sleep. Then He took out

of Adam one of his ribs and closed up the flesh so that it would heal nice and smooth. Out of this rib of Adam, God made a wife for him. She was a beautiful woman that Adam could love and talk with – one who could help him to enjoy the wonderful place that God had made for them to live in.

This place was called the Garden of Eden. The Bible says that there was mist that went up to water the whole face of the earth. I suppose there were waterfalls, springs, rivers and brooks, flowers, ferns, majestic trees, birds of all descriptions, animals that were tame - everything peaceful – the best of food to eat, tasty and full flavored. I'm sure that we've never tasted anything to compare with the fruit Adam and his wife had in that beautiful garden that God made. Wouldn't you like to live in a place like that?

Brother Rudy Cover

BRIGHT ORANGE OR CAMOUFLAGE?

"From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."
Galatians 6:17

Laws governing hunting vary from state to state, and one

criterion for the hunter is how to dress. Bright orange material is used during rifle season to protect the hunters from each other. Camouflage is used during archery season so the hunter can

sneak up on the game without being seen. Bright orange is worn so that the hunter is seen. Camouflage is used in order that he not be seen.

Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16) Do we try to blend in with society so that we are not seen? We have all been told, "Do not make waves." We have all been told to get along with everybody, but a wise man once said, if you try to please everyone you end up pleasing no one.

Romans 12:18 tells us, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceable with all men." This we should do, but sometimes it is not possible. Sometimes the world comes at us, as it did Jesus and the disciples. Do we run and hide? No. We should put on the gospel and stand firm. The gospel message

is bright orange in a green and brown world. We should be seen of men with the gospel of Christ and accept the consequences.

He tells us not to be afraid. He is preparing a place for us. The world will accuse us of wrongdoing. Jesus did not defend Himself: neither should we. Our work should be showing Christ to others. Jesus was accused of blasphemy. We are told we will suffer for His Name. Indeed, it is His Name that is important.

In later chapters of Acts we read of Paul before Felix, and how he appealed to Caesar. As a Roman citizen he was allowed to speak for himself, taking his testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ to the highest court of opinion. This is a privilege most of us never get; yet we must do our utmost to spread the gospel to others. If we do our part there is no doubt that this Word will spread to the highest of worldly leadership.

Down in the valley, or upon the mountain steep,
Close behind my Saviour would my soul ever keep;
He will lead me safely in the path that He hath trod,
Up to where they gather on the hills of God.

-W. O. Cushing

Brother Lynn H. Miller

OBITUARIES

LUCILLE ANDREWS

Sister Lucille Ruth Andrews went to be with the Lord on March 18, 2006, one day before her 94th birthday, at Spurgeon Manor in Dallas Center, Iowa. She was born March 19, 1912, to Harry and Florence (Benedick) Wingert, at Dallas Center, Iowa. At age twelve, she accepted the Lord and was baptized into the Church of the Brethren. In 1926, she became a charter member of the Dunkard Brethren Church to which she remained faithful until her death.

In 1957, she was united in marriage to Brother Harry Andrews. Lucille accepted Harry's children as her own and was Grandma to all the grandchildren. She was an example of love and Christian living to the whole family. Nothing made her happier than to have all the family around her. She always mentioned that she was praying for us.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry; one daughter, Dorothy Blocher; one great-grandson, Klint Andrews; two brothers, Orville and David; two sisters, Mary Gehr and Evelyn Faderon; and one nephew, Leon Faderon. She leaves to mourn her passing, two sons, Marvin (Dorothy) of Lee's Summit, Missouri and Larry (Jolene) of Raymore, Missouri; one daughter Miriam (Carl) Reed of Grandview, Missouri and one son-in-law, Earl Blocher of Winchester, Indiana; nineteen grandchildren; fifty nine great-grandchildren and thirty great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held on March 20, 2006 at the Dunkard Brethren Church in Dallas Center, Iowa. Officiating brethren were Elder Mark Andrews, Brother Curtis Andrews and Elder Jim Meyers. Burial was in the Brethren Cemetery at Dallas Center, Iowa.

She will be missed by the family, the Church and all who knew her.

Miss Me – But Let Me Go
When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free.

Miss me a little – but not too long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me – But let me go.

For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone
It's all a part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,
Miss me – But Let Me Go.

-Author unknown

The Family

DELLA EBLING

Sister Della Mae (Rike) Klepinger Ebling was born on February 7, 1907 at Liberty, Ohio to the late Lewis and Effie Rike. She passed away March 16, 2006 at the Reading Hospital to which she was taken after a fall down her cellar steps on March 10, 2006. She was married to Benjamin S. Klepinger on November 11, 1926 and resided at R. #2, Brookville, Ohio until May 1968 when they sold the farm and moved to Jay Road, West Milton, Ohio.

To this union were born two children, Wanda Mae Klepinger, who was stillborn on May 30, 1933 and Darlene Klepinger Longenecker born October 26, 1938.

She was baptized into the Church of the Brethren in 1921, later transferring her membership to the Dunkard Brethren Church in Englewood, Ohio in approximately 1941. She was a member of the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Bethel, Pennsylvania to which she was faithful until the time of her death.

Her first husband, Ben Klepinger, deceased on May 9, 1972 and she then married David Ebling from Bethel, Pennsylvania in 1979 and moved to Bernville, Pennsylvania where she resided until death. David Ebling deceased June 2, 1990.

She leaves to mourn, her daughter, Darlene Longenecker, Bernville, Pennsylvania; four grandchildren, Karen Gingrich and husband Jay, Brenda Weidenhammer and husband David, both of Bernville, Pennsylvania, Kevin Longenecker and wife Mary and Brent Longenecker and wife, Denise, both of Bethel, Pennsylvania; seventeen great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. Also three brothers, Carl Rike and wife Marlene of North Carolina, Emert Rike and wife Pauline, Paul Rike and wife Betty; two sisters-in-law, Blanche Rike and Mable Rike all of Ohio, plus many nieces and nephews. Three step-grandchildren; Frank and Lois Reed, Jason and Grace Reed, David and Kathy Reed; nine step-great-grandchildren and seven step-great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husbands; Ben Klepinger and David Ebling; daughter, Wanda; parents Lewis and Effie Rike; brothers, Billy, Ivan, Elden, Orville and Louie Rike; sisters, Ethel Rike and Catherine Oren and a son-in-law, George T. Longenecker.

Services were held in the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church in Pennsylvania on March 20 with Bro. Jason Reed and Elder Frank Shaffer officiating. Services were held in the Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church in Ohio, on March 22 with Elder Paul Stump and Elder Edward Johnson officiating. Burial was in the Bethel Cemetery, Englewood, Ohio.

Her family wants to thank each and everyone for their phone calls, cards, visits, flowers and most of all the prayers sent in her behalf and our time of grief. May we each strive to press forward and remain faithful to the end.

CHARLES W. SOWERS

Bro. Charles W. Sowers, 89, husband of Laverne (Early) Sowers of 90 Valley View Drive, Mt. Sidney, Virginia died February 13, 2006 in Ruxton Health Center of Staunton, Virginia.

He was born December 20, 1916 in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, a son of the late Conda B. and Emma (Tosten) Sowers.

Prior to retirement, Charles was employed as a machinist for Teledyne Landis Machine Shop, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. He also had his own small engine repair shop.

He was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in

Waynesboro, Pennsylvania from 1940 until 1986 and then joined the Dayton Dunkard Brethren Church in Dayton, Virginia. He was a deacon of both congregations and a trustee of the Dayton Congregation.

On September 13, 1986 he married Laverne Sowers of Mt. Sidney, Virginia. After moving to Virginia he enjoyed working in his wood working shop making toys and furniture and giving them away to family and friends.

In addition to his wife, family members include five daughters and sons-in-law; Alice and Caleb Bross of Manheim, Pennsylvania, Wilma and Paul Eberly of Clear Spring, Maryland, Karen and Paul Johns of Strasburg, Pennsylvania, Becky and Paul Merritt of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and Janice and Harold Zimmerman of Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania; a stepson, Carroll A. Smootz and wife, Dianne of Churchville, Virginia; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-three great grandchildren; three step grandchildren and a step great grandchild.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruby (Brown) Sowers; a brother, Eugene Sowers and a sister, Ruth Kennedy.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Jason Reed and Bro. Paul Nell on February 17, 2006 at Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home, Hagerstown, Maryland. Burial in the Cedar Lawn Memorial Park.

Miss Me, But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little – but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared.
Miss me – but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart,
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrow in doing good deeds.
Miss me – but let me go.

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 10-14, 2006

General Conference will be held at the West Milton Christian Center (formerly known as Memorial Holiness Campgrounds), 6390 Jay Road, located 1½ miles south west of West Milton, Ohio.

Those traveling from the north on I-75 should exit on Route 55 (exit 73) and proceed west on Route 48. Then south to Garland Road (approximately ½ mile south of West Milton), then west to Jay Road and north to grounds.

Those traveling from the north on Route 127 should take Route 571 from Greenville to Davis Road. After approximately 2 mile, Davis Road will intersect with Emerick Road. Proceed on Emerick to Jay Road, turn right and proceed to grounds.

Those coming from the east or west on I-70 should exit on Route 48 (exit 31) and proceed north approximately 6 miles to Garland Road, west to Jay Road and north to grounds.

By plane, come to Dayton International Airport and call the grounds for someone to pick you up. If traveling by bus, come to Dayton and there is local bus service to Union and call the grounds.

The Camp Grounds phone number is 937-698-9387. This number is subject to change.

If possible bring your own bedding. There will be bedding available for rent at a nominal fee at the grounds for those who cannot bring their own.

There are plenty of camper hook-ups available.

Lodging Committee:

Don and Lue Hostetler
Rick and Anna St. John
Fred and Jane Johnson

Please send reservations as soon as possible to:

Don Hostetler
3925 Kilbourn Rd.
Arcanum, OH 45304
Telephone 937-692-5443
e-mail – d9hst@aol.com

Brother Paul Stump,
Arrangements Committee

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Paul Nell is 1768 Seven Valleys Road, York, PA 17404. Telephone: 717-792-1353.

NOTICE OF STAFF NEEDS

Several of the present staff members are planning to leave the work, which will result in vacancies on the staff at Torreon Navajo Mission. We are praying that God will provide two or three individuals with a burden for souls and a will to work in God's Kingdom.

If God is calling you to invest a portion of your life in the eternal welfare of others, please contact Bro. Paul Skiles or Bro. Jim Meyers so they can answer questions and provide you with an application.

Board of Directors,
Torreon Navajo Mission

NOTICE

Anyone interested in purchasing a DVD showing how to alter a lapel suit coat to make the plain suit with the stand up collar, please send \$10.00 to Ronda Wertz, P.O Box 178, 705 Southwood Ct., Quinter, KS 67752. Also a DVD showing how to make a head veiling is available by sending \$10.00 to Dan Wagner, 2312 240th, Dallas Center, IA 50063.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 2006

June 4 – Remedying Disorderly Conduct – II Thess. 3:6-18

1. Discuss the reasoning behind withdrawing ourselves from a disorderly brother.
2. Compare how we would treat a disorderly brother with how we would treat a worldly person.

June 11 – Joy-Filled Testing and Perils of Double-Mindedness – James 1:1-11

1. How is our faith tested and what is the result of this testing?
2. What is double mindedness? Can a double minded person have faith?

June 18 – Father's Day – Mark 9:14-29

1. Compare the faith of this father with the faith of the Centurion in Luke, chapter seven.
2. Jesus saw the genuineness of this father's love. How is our love toward those who are without?

June 25 – The Temptation Life Cycle – James 1:12-18

1. We are all tempted. Discuss the process of temptation and how it can lead to sin.
2. Sin, when it is finished, leads to death. The alternative to sin is Jesus Christ. How does Christ interfere with the death process?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 2006

June 4 – Builders – Neh. 4:1-23, I Cor. 3:10-14

1. Compare the physical “building” with the spiritual in both instances.
2. How was Paul able to build, and what attribute of God was responsible?

June 11 – Unity – Eph. 4:1-32

1. What causes people to fight and disagree? If we are united by Jesus' blood, how can disagreements be present?
2. What bearing do immaturity and impurity have on unity?

June 18 – Father's Day – Deut. 5:16; Job 1:1-5; Prov. 30:11-12, 17, II Tim. 3:2-4

1. Discuss the promise given in Deut. 5:16. How can we best honor our parents?
2. Compare Job's good example with the verses in Proverbs.

June 25 – Temperance – Dan. 1:1-21, Luke 1:15

1. Discuss the advantages of temperance.
2. How does temperance in all things help us to draw near to God?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXXIV

JUNE, 2006

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HAPPY THE HOME

Happy the home when God is there,
And love fills every breast;
When one their wish, and one their prayer,
And one their heavenly rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' Name
Is sweet to every ear;
Where children early lisp His fame,
And parents hold Him dear.

Happy the home where prayer is heard,
And praise is wont to rise;
Where parents love the sacred Word
And all its wisdom prize.

Lord, let us in our homes agree
This blessed peace to gain;
Unite our hearts in love to Thee,
And love to all will reign.

-Henry Ware

OUR FATHER

As we honor our fathers, we recall what he has meant to us. We realize that he was part of the physical process that brought us into this world. He was pretty proud of his child, but who also had to be tough so we would not disappoint him. He might not have lavished as much attention on us as mother did, but we knew he cared in his own way. He was willing to work long, hard hours at disagreeable jobs so he could provide the basic needs of our lives. When we thought he did not care, he was trying to provide for us the way he thought best.

Fathers come in a variety of models. Some are more emotional than others. Some are more in tune with a child's needs. Some fathers are outgoing while

some are more introverted. This affects their relationships with their children.

Some keep a social distance so they do not fail in their duty of discipline. The duty of discipline rests upon the father, although in today's society it is a shared responsibility with the mother. Although father is not always available to dispense discipline, he and mother must be in agreement on how it is dispensed.

Fathers have been given the primary responsibility for the spiritual nurture of their families. They have been given the task of sharing not only by word but also by example, the spiritual truths of life. They are to be teachers in the home. They are to be the devotional leaders of the family.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JUNE 2006

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He patterns love in the home by the example of his love for his wife. The children learn Spiritual lessons through physical lessons. As they observe the relationship of the father and mother in the home, they get a picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church. As Christ was willing to give himself for the Church so the husband must be willing to give himself for the wife and the family. While this might at some point mean being willing to sacrifice his life for them, it more often will mean that he is willing to give of his efforts and strength to serve them.

As the devotional leader of the home, the father becomes to the children a personification of our Heavenly Father. It is through their view of their father serving them in various capacities, that they begin to form an idea of who God is. They think of God in terms that they can see in their father. Before they can think in abstract terms they will think in physical, visible terms. Their view of God, whether true or false, will be colored by their perception of their father.

Some fathers will strive to present a true portrait of God. Although they will not present a perfect picture, they will be care-

ful how they represent God to their families. Other fathers will abdicate their responsibility, either because they lack a relationship with the Father or it is weak. Others will be aware of their responsibility but will shirk making the effort that is needed. Some will substitute their physical authority for their spiritual authority. They will rule by might rather than by spiritual right.

As fathers grow older, some may rue their failures as they see their children go in pathways that they would prefer they did not follow. From the perspective of years and experiences, fathers can realize where they have failed to present the perfect picture of God. These fathers have done what they could, but now feel their shortcomings. These fathers may need encouragement more than presents during this season.

Life is a learning experience. Just because there have been past failures, this does not have to become the norm for the future. The mistakes of the past may serve as goads to fathers that they may serve better in the future than they have in the past. While they may not have the opportunity to return and undo their mistakes with their own

families, they may have the opportunity to influence their grandchildren in a positive way or they may be able to mentor a young father who needs a little help with his overwhelming responsibilities.

Fathers glimpsing the responsibility of fatherhood should be the leaders in the worship of Our Heavenly Father. As leaders in the family as well as in the community and church, they should be in the forefront of those seeking the direction and bless-

ings of God. The leadership of the church should be firmly in the hands of the fathers of the church as they pattern their roles after the Heavenly Father. They dare not abdicate their leadership to the women and children of the church, who will do their best to fulfill that role when they have been abandoned.

Fathers, become fathers indeed in all the responsibilities that God has given you.

M.C.Cook

BE NOT DECEIVED

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:7-8

As we look at the world around us, it is clear to see that this Biblical principle is being lived out in many lives. The people of the world have been deceived. They race through each day sowing seeds to their flesh as they go. The seeds of the Spirit are forgotten along the way because they take too much time. Who can afford to

spend part of their busy day planting, watering, and fertilizing the seeds of the Spirit? There are bills to pay, contracts to sign, and pleasures to enjoy. God is forgotten in the shuffle of fun and finances as people unsuccessfully try to reap a fulfilled life from corrupt seeds.

While this is a sad description of the world, it should come as no surprise. In II Timothy 3:13, Paul tells Timothy, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." As God looks upon the people of the world, He sees exactly what He expects to see in the lives of the

lost. He sees people who are confused and struggling because they have been deceived.

Having said that, I believe it is important for us to remember that these verses in Galatians weren't written to the unsaved world. They were written to the church (Galatians 1:2). Paul's concern wasn't that the unsaved were being deceived. Rather, his concern was that the saints were being deceived. His concern led him to remind them that God and His principles could not be ignored without consequences. He didn't want them to be led astray by the worldly influences.

Did Paul have good reason to be concerned? I believe he did. More importantly, I believe that we have as much, if not more, reason to be concerned about the same thing today. If asked whether we were being deceived, I have no doubt that we would say, "Of course not". Are we sure that is actually the case? By definition, a person who is being deceived doesn't realize it. In order to know for sure, we must look into the Word of God and compare our lives to the Perfect Standard.

In reality, when compared to God's Word, I believe we would

have to admit that the church of Jesus Christ is being deceived in some areas. For example, Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." It seems that many people ignore the first half of that verse and then expect the second half to happen automatically. They do not teach and demonstrate God's principles to their children, yet they expect their children to learn them.

Because I don't have children of my own, I hesitate to say too much about raising them. However, I have spent quite a bit of time working with children as a schoolteacher. It does not take long to figure out that you can not expect a child to learn something that you are not willing to teach them. Furthermore, they will almost assuredly fail to learn something that you are not willing to demonstrate to them with your own life.

Children do not automatically learn the value of good character and high moral standards. They do not learn the importance of attending church from parents who only attend when they feel like it. They do not learn the meaning of love from parents who do not love

each other enough to keep their marriage together. They do not learn to love and serve God from parents who love and serve themselves. They do not learn to give money to the Lord's work from parents who do not make it a priority to set aside money for the same purpose. But yet, as we look at Christian America, we see many situations where children are being expected to learn God's standards from parents who do not practice them.

In many cases, when the children grow up, their parents are surprised and saddened to see that they are not walking in the path of righteousness. Why are they surprised? Did they really believe that they could plant seeds of the flesh and watch their children reap a harvest of righteousness? Did they think that God was not serious when He taught the law of sowing and reaping?

This does not mean that every child who turns away from righteousness does so because their parents did not train them in the way they should go. It does mean, however, that parents who fail to make the ways of God a high priority in their families should not be surprised when their children grow up to

follow another path. Children reap what their parents sow. If we want children to reap righteousness and commitment to God, we need to plant righteousness and commitment to God in their lives.

Another area where we can see the people of God being deceived is the area of priorities. What is most important to us? I trust that we would all say that the Kingdom of Heaven is the most important thing in our lives. But, do our goals and priorities back up that claim? Think about the past week. How much time did you invest in the work of the Lord? How much time did you invest in earthly endeavors? Did you focus on expanding the Kingdom, or were you more interested in expanding your bank account, your house, or your social status?

What about your last paycheck? How much of it ended up in the work of the Kingdom, and how much was invested in your self-gratification? Would the answers to these questions show that the Kingdom is more of an afterthought? It has been said that a person's priorities can be measured by looking at their checkbook. What are we doing with the money that God

has blessed us with? We need to remember that it's not about how much of our money we give to God; it's about how much of God's money we keep for ourselves.

There are many other ways in which the church of America is showing symptoms of being deceived. Today, the professing church is being polluted with greed, divorce, adultery, homosexuality, deception, selfishness, and complacency. People who claim to be children of God are being convinced that God did not actually mean what He said. They no longer hold to the principle that we will reap what we sow. The "light of the world" is getting dim. The "salt of the earth" is losing its savor.

May we all look carefully at our own lives and make sure that we are not being deceived by the ideas of the world around us. Have we let the fleshly, selfish goals of unrighteousness sneak

into our priorities? If God's people do not hold up the unclouded truth of His Word, who will? God has called us to righteousness and to the work of leading the lost to Him. The world has been deceived by so many misguided influences that it no longer knows where to look for truth. God has appointed us as the light of the world and the salt of the earth. We need to make sure that we are actually being salt and savoring the world instead of allowing the influences of the flesh-driven world to cause us to lose our savor.

May we be steadfast and refrain from sowing unto the flesh. Instead, let us continue to sow the seeds of the Spirit that we may reap life everlasting. As God has promised, we shall reap what we sow.

Brother Nate Meyers
HC 79 Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

WHAT IS A FATHER?

A Mother? – A Child?

Many people give special regard to Father in June, after Mother's special time of remembrance in May. These days are set aside for special honor to

parents, but they certainly are not the only time parents are to be remembered and respected for what they are. Whenever you remember your parents, let

it be because you love and cherish them, not just because it's a day set aside for them. If you are disrespectful and unloving the rest of the year, that one day will be just a meaningless formality.

Why didn't I just ask, "what is a family"? Certainly a father, mother and child make a family unit. They are to be a complete unit, parted only by death or other events beyond human control. These three have a special need of each other, a special responsibility to each other, which can't be fulfilled outside of God's plan. But oftentimes, these three persons are not a unit. Sometimes father is missing, sometimes mother is, and in other instances, a child is somewhere else. Let's think about each person and consider why they need to be together.

What is a father? The dictionary says, "he who begets a child; a male parent. One who feeds and supports, or exercises paternal care over another. An adoptive father is one who adopts the child of another, and acknowledges and treats him as his own." This all sounds simple enough, as it speaks mostly of the physical relationship, but is that all a father is?

A father is subject to mistakes, fatigue, and impatience. A father may blunder through life on his own, just doing the best he can, or he can commit his life to Christ and receive strength to carry out his duties. A father is a human being responsible to God, first for himself, then for those entrusted to his care. As Moses' burden in caring for the children of Israel alone was too great, so a father's burden is too great to bear alone. He needs the Lord's help right from the start to insure good results.

Now, what is a mother? The dictionary says she is "a female parent; a woman who has borne a child. Also to adopt as a son or daughter; to be as a mother toward." Again, the physical relationship is stressed, but we know being a mother, especially a good mother, involves more than that. A mother is not just someone to do the cooking, keep the house clean and so forth. She has an active and vital part in training a child, in determining the outcome of his or her life.

Mothers are noted for praying for their children and for taking an interest in their activities, which seem trivial to others. She is concerned for her family's

welfare, both naturally and spiritually. She, too, needs help from the Lord if she is to succeed in her unique responsibilities. As Hannah poured out her soul to the Lord, so must each mother pray for her children and commit them unto the Lord.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4. These two verses sum up the parents' responsibility to a child. This training involves both the parents, not just the father, or just the mother, and must be started when the child is very young. Either parent can be an influence for good or for evil and both are responsible to God for what they teach and the example they set before their children. For examples, read II Chron. 22:3 and 26:4.

A child is "a son or daughter. Also one weak in knowledge or experience, judgment." A child is more than a little person who can turn a house upside down in no time, or one who doesn't like peaches "because they are yellow." "Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord." Psal.

127:3a. They, too, have a spiritual responsibility, to their parents and to God, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honour thy father and mother." Eph. 6:1, 2a. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Ecc. 12:1. Children are to look to the Lord, to honor and obey their parents, starting when they are very young. None of this is an option.

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Col. 3:18-21. Only by recognizing your spiritual responsibilities are you able to have the proper husband-wife relationship, the proper parent-child relationship. As you consider what a father, a mother or a child is, consider also what God expects of you. Put Him first in your life, then you can be what you should be.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Selected from the June 15,
1981 issue of the Bible Monitor

OUR STORY OF LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S

We first noticed it about twenty years ago. My dad was changing. As sociable as he had always been we started noticing that he withdrew from adult conversation and went to play with the children. It was there that he felt most comfortable. Children would not pick on his lack of memory or his change in personality as adults would.

As a family we remembered that he had had problems catching on to new tasks he had on the job in recent years. His employer had switched him to another department, thinking it may be easier for him but Daddy still had problems catching on. He retired at sixty two, and that was after embarrassing situations that left my mother frustrated and confused. What was happening to Daddy?

"Daddy" is what I have always called him. To some, that sounds like a juvenile term that only children should use. To me, it was a term of endearment as I referred to the man who had worked hard to provide for me, loved me, guided and protected me. He had claimed the Lord as Savior for his life and longed to see his children all do the

same. He had answered spiritual questions when I was searching for my own convictions and Scriptural understanding. He had encouraged me to stand for what was right when I faced challenges in the public high school. He had praised me, encouraged me, and let me know he cherished me. He will always be my "Daddy".

As we look back we realize my dad was still in his fifties when the dreaded disease of Alzheimer's hit him. By the time he was in his mid sixties it was obvious something was wrong, even though the casual acquaintance would not have noticed. He has a way of being witty and creative to come up with answers that would save face even if he had no clue what was being talked about. Very seldom was he left without an answer or comment.

His situation was taking a real toll on my mother. Daddy always loved our mother deeply and he expressed it a lot. He would have never in a million years wanted to put her under the stress that his condition has. It is normal that the caregiver often wears out before the patient. Daddy was happy and

carefree, for the most part. He did not have a care in the world but his forgetfulness, his lack of tact in what he said around others, as well as other ways he caused Mom to be embarrassed were wearing away on my mother. Any veneer she was trying to put on to not expose what was down underneath was getting worn and thin. She needed help.

My brothers and sisters and I feel the blessing of shared burdens as we discuss what to do with the situation at the different stages. It was decided, several years ago, to give Mom breaks by taking him into our homes for a period of time.

As the years have passed the role of Mom being the main caregiver has switched to the children. Mom still helps out but she doesn't have him most of the time. We commend her for being humble enough to admit she needs help. It is deep in our blood to be independent and not be a burden to anyone so it took God's grace for her to be willing to let others come along side and lighten her load.

We live over a thousand miles away from my parents but the distance does not take away our desire to help out. In the

past five years my dad has spent about seven months total with us. It has been an experience we will never regret. One day as I was having my devotions I read in I Timothy 5 about how children should "requite their parents." The word "*requite*" drove me to the dictionary and I learned that it meant: "To repay; to give back in return." It felt so gratifying to know I was getting my chance to do some payback for all he had done for me!

Everyone needs to be accepted and loved and you will find opportunity to do that often with someone with Alzheimer's. It's not like working with a child where if they do something wrong you correct them and use the opportunity to train them. The brain of an Alzheimer's patient is actually less in mass – it is deteriorating and they are incapable of learning new things. Therefore, they need to be accepted and they need to feel love, even though they do many things that can be frustrating and wearisome. As much as you may want to change some things about them, it is useless to try, so you may as well accept them, and it helps to never lose your sense of humor. It will

get you through some difficult situations!

How precious the memories of the times I saw his eyes light up as I'd say, "Daddy, I love you. Thanks for all you did for me." The last time I told him that he responded with, "I loved you first." How sweet! He still likes hugs. He still responds to smiles.

There are times we can't help but be humored by something funny he says but we try to always remember that he deserves a certain amount of respect and honor even though his dignity seems to have waned. Many Alzheimer's patients lose their manners and revert back to how they acted as young children, including eating with their fingers, walking with muddy shoes onto a clean floor, sneaking food when they should not be eating, wandering off when they are outside, and being noisy when people are trying to rest. They can say whatever comes to their mind, no matter how untactful or embarrassing it is.

Daddy loves to sing and he does it frequently and heartily. What he lacks in talent he makes up for in volume. He demonstrates poetic ability as

he puts rhyme to many things that he says. He also loves to pray, go to church, and do those things that he has done since childhood. We smile that it sometimes takes several times of prayer during worship before it is settled in his mind that we have prayed, but we rejoice that he developed routines that are as valuable as prayer and church going. He often talks about the Lord and how ready he is for Heaven, even though he forgets if he is twenty-seven or seventy-two. (He is now seventy-eight.)

Daddy is now living with my sister, Lucy and her family, who are doing a wonderful job of caring for him. We all are so thankful for their willing, loving hearts and they see caring for him as long term. Others help out but the main responsibility is on them and they find a blessing in what they are doing. We take one day at a time, not making any rash statements about what we will do in the future because only God knows.

One day as I was sitting beside him in church and the congregation was heartily singing, "I'll Count My Blessings", Daddy reached over and took my hand and smiled at me. I remember

feeling the urge to shout from the rooftops, "...and though life was not all I willed, my God is **good** to me." Many people never had a loving father. Many people don't even know who their father is. Many children have never felt love and acceptance from their father. My childhood is saturated with cherished memories of home and loving parents and I can not for a minute feel cheated.

I have been blessed.

God help us to show the love, honor, and respect to our aging parents that they deserve. Even if you have parents that did not demonstrate Godliness in their parenting, you are still called to honor them and God has a reward for those that do so.

Sister Sally Meyers

EXPECT GREAT THINGS

Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

William Carey is a name well known to those who are missionary minded. His success in India was not due to him, but to God. Carey said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." We have learned over the years that it is a leap of faith from believing God can do great things to expecting great things from God. God does not work in normal ways, but in supernatural ways. We work in normal ways, and we oftentimes think it would be ridiculous to ask Him to do something that we consider impossible.

In Luke, chapter 18 we find a man who expected great things from Jesus Christ. He had heard of Jesus' work and knew that Jesus could help him. He was so determined to receive his sight that when the people told him to shut up, "he cried so much the more." (verse 39) F. C. Thompson calls this "irrepressible earnestness." No one can stop it. How easily do we give up when our answer does not come? We see here that Jesus gave the man his sight. Who would have thought that Jesus would have ever bothered with such a man? Who would have thought that Jesus would have ever bothered with me?

We know He is able. The

Bible is full of this truth. He created the worlds and all that lie therein in six literal days. He created it out of nothing. He literally spoke the worlds into existence. Yet the most "intelligent" and best schooled of men laugh at the thought of a creator when they cannot even understand the simplest of God's creation.

Yet it is not enough to believe that He exists. We must acknowledge Him in ALL our ways, and He will direct our paths. (Proverbs 3:6) He must be not only our Saviour, but our

Lord and Master. He must be our Father, and we must be His sons and daughters. In Philippians 3:21 we are told that "He is able even to subdue all things unto himself." This is absolute power. In the end, all will bow the knee and worship Him. But now, He wants our heart and our undivided attention. He wants us to worship Him voluntarily, in spirit and in truth. If we do that, we can expect great things from Him. After all, He is "able to do exceeding abundantly ABOVE all that we ask or think."

I have found the joy no tongue can tell
 How its waves of glory roll!
 It is like a great o'er flowing well,
 Springing up within my soul.
 It is joy unspeakable and full of glory,
 Oh, the half has never yet been told.
 -R. E. Warren

Brother Lynn H. Miller

THE DANGERS OF A LIMITED ATONEMENT DOCTRINE

"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bonds of their habitation; That they

should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, though he be not far from everyone of us." Acts 17:26-27

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only,

but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2

We do not profess to completely understand the sovereignty of God. However, we agree with the historical Brethren understanding of the limited atonement doctrine, which teaches that only a "chosen few" were included in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Included in this teaching is that some are born for salvation and others are born to perdition. The Brethren have historically rejected this understanding.

We believe several serious errors are associated with this doctrine. Those who teach a white supremacy theology go beyond the normal limited atonement doctrine and limit the sacrificial death of Christ to the "white" race. During the time of slavery in this country this teaching led to the conclusion that black people do not have souls. Fortunately, not all slaveholders held to this and some slaves became Christians. Likewise some of those within the white supremacy movement now acknowledge that salvation is possible for other races. The evil of slavery was denied, however, and the superiority of the white race is still embraced in the

white supremacy movement.

Out of the white supremacy movement also came the teaching of a pre-Adamic creation. Whether or not this teaching originated with this theology we are not sure. However, they are among the most progressive in propagating it. According to them Genesis one is an account of the creation of the white race. They teach that there was an inferior creation of all other races. Some of them teach that Cain married an individual of the Asian race.

Another danger of the limited atonement doctrine is that it denies world evangelism. Strangely enough, some who hold to this doctrine do have missionaries. Their reason is that, according to them, no one can know for sure who the chosen are. Therefore they believe Scripture teaches a need to reach the chosen. On the other hand, some who reject this doctrine are not in favor of foreign missions.

Perhaps the greatest danger in the limited atonement doctrine is that it twists Scripture. Our selected scriptures clearly teach that in God's eyes

Continued on page 17

General Conference Program

Of the Dunkard Brethren Church

To be held at
West Milton Christian Center
West Milton, Ohio
June 10-14, 2006

7:00 A.M. Morning Worship	2:00 P.M. Afternoon Service
7:30 A.M. Breakfast	5:00 P.M. Evening Meal
9:45 A.M. Morning Service	7:00 P.M. Evening Service
12:00 noon Lunch	11:00 P.M. Curfew

Preaching Program

Service	Speaker	Subject	Text
Sat. P.M.	David Rice	Do It!	John 2:1-11
Sat. P.M.	Justin Beck	Bordertown to the Promised Land	
Sat. Eve.	Tom St. John	To Be Supplied	
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School	One Boy's Lunch-5,000 Hungry Men (Children Only)	John 6:1-13
Sun. A.M.	Phil Gish	To Be Supplied	
Sun. A.M.	Keith Bailey	Confessing Christ	
		Before the World	Rom. 10:6-21
Sun. P.M.	Dennis St. John	Ministry of Grace	Eph. 4:1-32
Sun. P.M.	Mark Andrews	To Be Supplied	
Sun. Eve.	Wesley Miller	Young People's Message:	
		Temptation's Call	Psa. 19:7-14
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study-Adults:	Strangers and Pilgrims	Heb. 11:8-16
	Bible Study-Children:	The Battle with	
		Pitchers & Lights	Jdg. 7:15-22
Mon. A.M.	Robert Lichtenberger	Where Are We Going?	Jer. 6:10-19
Mon. P.M.	John Ledington	To Be Supplied	
Mon. P.M.	Jason Reed	The Priority of the Kingdom	Matt. 6:33
Mon. Eve.	Robert Lehigh	Fit For the Master's Use	II Tim. 2:21
Mon. Eve.	Fred Pifer	"Na hata mwisho wa nchi"	Acts 1:8
Tues. A.M.	Bible Study-Adults:	The Scapegoat	Lev. 16:5-10, 20-28
	Bible Study-Children:	The Miracle in the Pot of Oil	II Kings 4:1-7
Tues. A.M.	Jeremiah Johnson	Strangers and Pilgrims	I Peter 2
Tues. P.M.	Jason Carpenter	Youth Activities Program	
Tues. Eve.	Paul Stump	Missionary Message:	
		Go, Teach and Declare His	
		Glory and Wonders	Psa. 96

race does not count. He has created us of one blood. It also clearly teaches that all people are free to seek the Lord. If mankind does not have a free will, as this doctrine erroneously teaches, what would be the purpose of seeking the Lord. The verse from I John clearly teaches that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world.

In conclusion, salvation is for all mankind. We must admit that this brings into consideration some difficult problems. Why are there those born who never hear the Gospel? This is where the sovereignty of God becomes a reality. We must simply admit that we do not have an answer. Along with this comes the question of what is the final destination of those who have never heard the Gospel? This has brought discussion and differences within the Christian community. Some have concluded

that these are given special consideration. Some of this type of thinking is taken from Romans 1:20, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." The problem with this type of thinking is that with few exceptions, if any, man worships something or someone. The final result is often an acceptance of false religions as acceptable worship of God. We, personally, are willing to leave such matters in the hands of a holy and righteous God. We do believe that if individuals are sincere in their search God will in some way provide the Truth.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

THE FAMILY MAMA

A few years ago my son paid me what I consider to be one of the highest compliments. I was walking with my five-year-old when he tenderly called me the "family mama."

"The family mama?" I laughed. At first it sounded

comical, akin to the family cow or the family dog. The more I reflected on the title, the more I liked it. It had been spoken with such tender endearment it was like a crown or an award.

The family mama. I guess of all the titles I could be pegged

with or remembered by, the family mama isn't too bad. I certainly could not be called supermom. Handling a full time career and motherhood would be too much for me! I won't be remembered for my clean windows, organized shelves or tidy garden. My hodge-podge, garage sale style of decorating will not win me any awards. I will not be in any "Who's-Who" or on any top ten lists of most admired women.

But I can cheerfully be the family mama. I can make sure everyone gets enough to eat, simple though the meals may be. I can wash the dirty faces, change the diapers, and wipe the noses. I can listen to the three-year-old chatter and encourage a teen through algebra. I can teach, I can delegate, and I can lead. I can cuddle anyone who still fits in my lap and hug those who do not. Though I do not enjoy it, I can and must discipline. I can worry, I can pray. I can and do love their father.

Of course, I can do all these things grudgingly and without love. Then I become as a "sounding bras." Sometimes I get grouchy and grumpy, concerned about my rights and upset about unimportant things. I

forget to enjoy my position which for right now, is being the family mama.

Although I felt my son paid me a compliment, I do not always deserve it. He did stir up a desire to joyfully fulfill my role in life. If I am remembered for nothing else, being the family mama is honor enough for me.

The family mama several years later: I am still the family mama, although times have changed. I no longer have diapers to change or noses to wipe. Only the youngest fits in my lap and she just barely! I no longer listen to three-year-old chatter, but my husband and I enjoy the evenings around the table, listening to the thoughts and opinions of our adult and nearly adult children. I may not be as physically exhausted at the end of my day as when I had a houseful of little children, but I often feel spiritually stretched as I pray for these young lives entering into adulthood; when I feel the snipping of the apron strings.

Young mothers, take heart. Those exhausting years truly do not last forever! This is your time to spend and be spent (II Corinthians 15a) for your fam-

ily. As the family grows older, you really will find more time to do all those little things that just do not seem to get done now. You will even be able to take a walk with your husband without arranging for a babysitter!

Try to enjoy each day, each task, each challenge. Remember, being the family mama is blessed, indeed.

Sister Laura Hawbaker
Dallas Center, IA

OUR FOCUS

For quite a while, we had a camera that was manual focus. You pointed the camera toward the subject and then turned the dial until it was sharp and clear. Good pictures took some fine tuning and some time and effort on our part. The camera took good pictures when it was focused, but very poor ones when not in focus. We have taken pictures both ways and the ones in focus were a lot better than the ones that were not. The out of focus ones had to be thrown away.

So it is with our lives. When our lives are focused, then is when we are of some value. In our everyday life, if we are not focused on the job at hand, then we are not productive. Someone who is not focused on his job may soon find himself looking for another place to work. At home, if the focus is on other things, everyday tasks are not

completed and others in the family may wonder what we do with our time. I have a habit of multitasking and not getting one thing finished before going on to the next. Many times I find at the end of the day, nothing has been completed even though I kept busy. I was not focused on any one thing.

In our spiritual life, we must be focused. God and Jesus are to be the center of our spiritual universe. As we revolve around them, our eyes should always be in their direction, focused on them. It helps to keep our "picture" sharp and clear.

In the beginning of our spiritual walk, we needed some fine-tuning and that took some time and effort on our part. Maybe we were not organized with our Bible study or our prayer life. A set time for devotions and praying is good in the beginning of our Christian walk. It helps to

create a good habit, so that it becomes part of us, not just something we do when we think about it. Maybe we were not sure what God expected, so we did not dedicate ourselves to being focused on God.

As we grow in knowledge and fellowship with God and Christ, our focus becomes clearer and we find ourselves being more in tune with God's will and more willing to be led by the Spirit. Growth comes by exercising our spiritual nature. Our spiritual life will not flourish if it is not exercised. It becomes out of focus and blurry instead of something of value.

The newer cameras are automatic focus. They work great. You just point and shoot. Everything is in focus. If our life is in tune with Christ and God, then we should be on automatic focus. Maturity in Christ brings

an automatic response to adversity, to temptation, to trials, to sorrow. When those things come, we automatically find ourselves in prayer. When the good things in life come, we automatically find ourselves giving God the glory. When we sin, we automatically find ourselves asking God for forgiveness. May we grow in grace and maturity so that we find ourselves on "automatic focus".

Let us focus on God because He was focused on us from the beginning. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Sister Jolene Andrews
Grandview Missouri
Congregation

THE HOUSE OF STRAW

This story is true. It concerns a Dutch boy named Joost. He lived in the 1500's, when believers in Christ were persecuted and murdered for their faith.

Joost was a singer all his life. He sang in the choir at

Middelburg's great Catholic Cathedral. In 1556, the King of Spain came to Middelburg. They held a High Mass for him and he heard Joost sing. He loved his singing and wanted to take Joost back to Spain with him.

At the time Spain was the greatest naval power on earth. It also had the most beautiful court where the King lived. But Joost did not want to go. He wanted to be a child of God and serve Christ. He hid so he would not have to go to Spain. He asked an Anabaptist preacher to baptize him.

When this happened, word got back to the royal court, and after four years in hiding, Joost was caught and put in jail. Four men from the Holy Office of the Inquisition questioned him. He sang in his jail cell and wrote songs to honor the Lord of Glory.

The inquisitors stretched him on the rack. They put hot steel rods through his knees until they came out his ankles. But he would not recant. He would not give up his witness for the Lord.

They then built a little house

of straw in the town-square. People came from miles around, totally filling the town. Soldiers brought him in chains. He was pale and drawn. But he was singing, in that clear voice, a bit lower than before, because he was now a man.

The song was one that he had written. It spoke of God being always before him, so that he could see Him.

They put him in the little house of straw. He was still singing as the flames consumed the straw. He was eighteen years old, by no means the youngest person to die in the name of Christ.

"From henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Galatians 6:17

Brother Lynn H. Miller

BIBLE STORY

SATAN CAUSES MAN TO SIN

God had created Adam and Eve and placed them in a beautiful place to live. They had everything that was good to eat and to look at, beautiful flowers and trees, water and grass - everything was just right. But God had told them there was one

tree that they should not eat the fruit of. It was called, "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." This was the only thing, as far as we know, that God told them not to do.

God and Adam and Eve were friends. They walked and

talked together in the beautiful garden that God had made. God also had an enemy and his name was Satan. One day Satan showed Eve the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve told Satan that it was the tree that God had said, "You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it or you will die."

Satan does not mind telling lies if it serves his purpose, so he replied, "You won't really die. God just told you not to eat of it because He knows that if you do, then you will be like gods, knowing good and evil."

Eve looked at the tree and saw the beautiful fruit on it. It looked like it was good to eat and if it would make one wise and know so much – surely God didn't really mean what He said. So she ate some of the fruit and gave some to Adam.

As soon as they had eaten, something happened that had never happened before. The Bible says, "The eyes of them both were opened, and they knew they were naked." So they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. It

wasn't very long till they heard the voice of God in the garden. I suppose it was like He had done many times before. But this time Adam and Eve were afraid and hid themselves among the trees of the garden. Afraid of their best friend!

God called Adam and said, "Where are you?"

Adam answered God, "I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself."

And God said, "Have you eaten of the tree that I commanded you not to eat of?"

So Adam blamed his wife and his wife blamed Satan, so by disobeying God Adam and Eve sinned. They were driven out of that lovely place God had made for them. They had to work hard, they got tired, had troubles, got sick and finally died – all because of sin.

For this reason, Jesus, God's only begotten Son, came into this world to die that we could have our sins forgiven – if we only obey Him.

Brother Rudy Cover

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Scripture Memorization paints a picture of hard work, Sunday school kids, and something for others to do. It is work, it can happen for adults as well as children, and it can be one of your accomplishments.

Who then should memorize? This would be you, your children at home, and your Sunday school students. Your children should learn now because their minds are as sharp as they will ever be. They will do it for you because they like doing anything with you if you make it fun. As an adult you should memorize because it is an aid to finding the will of God for your life through Bible reading, prayer, and meditation. As a Sunday school teacher, you have a captive audience away from the chores of home.

How much then should we memorize? Does fifty two verses per year, one verse per week sound like too much for a yearly goal? You probably already have at least twenty-one verses memorized: Psalm 1, 23, and 100, and John 3:16. You are almost halfway through the first year! Make sure you are saying the familiar Scriptures accurately, without skipping

verses or words, and that you have the conjunctions and prepositions accurate. Sloppy memorizing makes for much harder recall later.

What then should we memorize? Start with the familiar twenty-one verses. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide. Keep a notebook of verses learned and jot down those that you hope to learn for the future. I prefer the King James Version for all memory work.

How then should we memorize? There are three important keys to memorization: repetition, repetition, and more repetition. Choose your Scripture and say it aloud three to five times daily. Sometimes it takes me a month to learn a dozen verses and other times I can do it in a week. I'm not in competition with anyone; I'm just filing away Scriptures. For children that can not read, record it on tape, and make sure they have a special time set aside to listen to it, and say it WITH them daily. Some adults find it helpful to write verses on recipe cards and place them where they can see them daily. I use Scripture memorization as part of my morning devotions and say

about five verses at a time aloud three times in a row. Find your level of least agony and best results and repeat, repeat, repeat.

Why then should we memorize? Children memorize because they are rewarded by Mom's pleasure and obvious joy. The genuine joy is actually more important than stickers or candy. Adults should memorize because it's an ideal way to seriously study Scripture. In Psalm 63:8 David says, "My soul followeth hard after thee." Scrip-

ture memorization is hard work for me. I eagerly look forward to the day when a long passage has been successfully committed to memory. The number of Scriptures learned over the years is not as important as the lessons taught through memory work.

Your children can memorize when you are committed to it. As an adult, you too can be successful if you commit to do so. It's not easy, but it is rewarding.

Sister Mary Sue Moss

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY

In speaking of a person's faults
Pray don't forget your own.
Remember, those with homes of glass
Should seldom throw a stone.
If we have nothing else to do,
But talk of those who sin,
'Tis better we commence at home
And from that point begin.
We have no right to judge a man
Until he's fairly tried.
Should we not like his company,
We know the world is wide.
Some may have faults; and who has not?
The old as well as young.
Perhaps you may for ought you know
Have fifty to their one.
I'll tell you of a better plan,
And find it works full well.

To try your own defects to cure,
Before of others tell.
And though I sometimes hope to be
No more than some I know.
Your own short comings bid you let
The faults of others go.
Then let you all when you commence
To slander friend or foe,
Think of the harm one word will do
To those who little know.
Remember, curses sometimes like
Your chickens roost at home.
Don't speak of other's faults
Until you have none of your own.
-William Hopkins

EVERY THINKING MAN

Every thinking man, when he thinks, realizes that the teachings of the Bible are so interwoven with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally impossible for us to figure what life would be if those teachings were removed. We would lose almost all the stan-

dards by which we now judge both public and private morals; all the standards towards which we, with more or less resolution, strive to raise ourselves.

-Theodore Roosevelt

Selected by
Brother Lynn H. Miller

OBITUARY

EARL A. SILKNITTER

Earl A. Silknitter, age 82, of Green Meadows in Louisville, Ohio passed away Tuesday, April 4, 2006, at Mercy Medical Center. He was born in Rootstown on July 26, 1923 to Alvin and Sarah Necette (Rhodenbaugh) Silknitter.

Earl had been a farmer and resided in East Rochester, Ohio. A son, Rick and nephew, Ronald Wile, preceded him in death. He

is survived by a sister, Pauline Brainard of North Canton, Ohio; son, Dennis Silknitter, of Greenville, Ohio; three grandchildren; nephews, Gary Wile of Uniontown, Ohio and Jerry Wile of North Canton, Ohio.

He was baptized into the Orion Dunkard Brethren Church in North Canton, Ohio in 1934.

Arrangements were made with the Arnold Funeral Home in Hartville, Ohio. The graveside service was on Friday, April 7, 2006 with Dr. Jack Haggerty officiating. Burial was in the Greensburg Cemetery in Greensburg, Ohio following the services.

MARRIAGE

LICHTENBERGER-MEYERS

Bro. Peter Meyers, son of Leon and Deana Meyers and Sis. Deborah Lichtenberger, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky Lichtenberger were united in marriage on April 1, 2006.

They reside at 6692 Boundary Road, Chambersburg, PA 17201

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 10-14, 2006

General Conference will be held at the West Milton Christian Center (formerly known as Memorial Holiness Campgrounds), 6390 Jay Road, located 1½ miles south west of West Milton, Ohio

Those traveling from the north on I-75 should exit on Route 55 (exit 73) and proceed west on Route 48. Then south to Garland Road (approximately ½ mile south of West Milton), then west to Jay Road and north to grounds.

Those traveling from the north on Route 127 should take Route 571 from Greenville to Davis Road. After approximately 2 mile, Davis Road will intersect with Emerick Road. Proceed on Emerick to Jay Road, turn right and proceed to grounds.

Those coming from the east or west on I-70 should exit on Route 48 (exit 31) and proceed north approximately 6 miles to Garland road, west to Jay Road and north to grounds.

By plane, come to Dayton International Airport and call the grounds for someone to pick you up. If traveling by bus, come to Dayton and there is local bus service to Union and call the grounds.

The Camp grounds phone number is 937-698-9387. This number is subject to change.

If possible bring your own bedding. There will be bedding available for rent at a nominal fee at the grounds for those who cannot bring their own.

There are plenty of camper hook-ups available.

Lodging Committee: Don and Lue Hostetler
Rick and Anna St. John
Fred and Jane Johnson

Please send reservations as soon as possible to:

Don Hostetler
3925 Kilbourn Rd.
Arcanum, OH 45304
Telephone 937-692-5443
e-mail – d9hst@aol.com

Brother Paul Stump,
Arrangements Committee

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation plans to hold their revivals July 16 through July 23. Services will be at 7:30 each evening and Sunday morning at 9:30. Brother Jeremiah Johnson from Hart, Michigan has consented to be our speaker. We encourage all to take time out to support Brother Jeremiah and attend these meetings.

Sister Jane Valentine, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview, Missouri Congregation plans to have revival meetings with Bro. Jeremiah Johnson from Hart, Michigan, July 30 through August 6, 2006. We are planing a Lovefeast at 6:00

P.M. on Saturday, August 5.

Please pray for Bro. Jeremiah as he prepares for this meeting and also for our congregation as we prepare our hearts to receive the Lord's messages.

All are welcomed to come and worship with us!

Sister Deena Andrews, Cor.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to thank each one of you who phoned or sent cards and letters to me following my heart surgery and recovery. Your notes and words of encouragement were much appreciated. Also thank you for the many prayers sent Heavenward in my behalf.

Sister Mary Stump

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 2006

July 2 – Antidote for Self-deception – James 1:19-27

1. What is the perfect law of liberty?
2. What kind of person would seem to be religious, but instead their religion is vain?

July 9 – Love Allows No Discrimination – James 2:1-13

1. In America, the things that we acquire become status symbols of who we are. How do we view others who cannot afford the things that we buy?
2. If we show no mercy, when will God bring judgment upon us?

July 16 – An Unbreakable Bond: Faith and Works – James 2:14-

1. How could Abraham be justified by works, when Rom. 5:1 says that we are justified by faith?
2. Explain why faith without works is dead.

July 23 – The Tremendous Influence of a Little Member – James 3:1-12

1. What does it mean to not be many masters?
2. What are some examples of expressions or talk that we use either as a curse or a blessing?

July 30 – Seek Heavenly Wisdom or Find the Results of Self Seeking – James 3:13-4:6

1. What kind of wisdom is earthly, sensual, and devilish?
2. If we receive not because we ask amiss, what needs to change in our asking?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 2006

July 3 – Traditions – Matt. 15:1-14; II Thess. 2:12-17

1. Was Jesus teaching us that traditions are wrong, and if not, what were they doing wrong?
2. Do Christians tend to hold fast to traditions which are Biblically based with a wrong emphasis, or on the other hand lay aside traditions, which are not directly based on scripture, but encourage the practice of godly principles?

July 9 – Goodness of Youth – Ecc. 12:1-7; Luke 2:49; II Tim. 1:5; II Tim. 3:15

1. What are the advantages of being young, when it comes to serving God?
2. Why is it so important to seek God early in life?

July 16 – Self-Indulgence – Ecc. 2:1-26

1. There is probably more opportunity in our land for the common person to pursue indulgence than any time in history. How are we going to deal with it?
2. Is it possible for us to enjoy the good things that God has given us without vanity and vexation of spirit?

July 23 – Walking on the Sea – Matt. 14:22-36

1. Can you relate experiences in your life which were much like being tossed on the waves in the night? How was your faith?
2. We believe our God has supernatural power, but are we afraid to see it displayed?

July 30 – Jonah – All Chapters

1. Does God still call individuals at times to go to a certain place to serve Him?
2. Can we envision revival of this magnitude taking place in our day?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXXIV

JULY, 2006

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND

God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Thro' storm and night;
When wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.

For her our prayers shall rise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait;
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry,
God save the state.

-C.T.Brooks

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

Americans celebrate the Fourth of July as their national Independence Day. While a time of feasting and frivolity, it is supposed to be a time of reflection on the struggles leading to the establishment of the American nation. The Declaration of Independence and other symbols of the Revolutionary War are presented for solemn reflection. It is a celebration of the nation's political freedom.

Unfortunately, many in the land are unaware and uncaring about the basis of the freedoms that we take for granted. For most the oft-repeated litany concerning the bravery and devotion of the soldiers that fought in the Revolutionary War is the accepted answer to the question of how our freedoms were ob-

tained. The history of that era that we read is usually a glorification of the strategy and tactics of Washington and other American military leaders. There may be some discussion of the political and diplomatic efforts as well. Authors will give us the important battles and movements of the war, assuring us that these brilliant moves secured the freedom of the nation.

While we respect the efforts to secure national independence, we must also realize that in this humanistic age, men have persuaded themselves that this freedom was obtained solely through men's efforts. They are unwilling to admit that without God's direction over the affairs of men, there would not have been any lasting success.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Today, study of history is thought unimportant. When it is considered, it becomes a glorification of the efforts of men. There is little interest concerning the will or hand of God in the accomplishments of leaders, nations or institutions.

Without the favor of God, little could be accomplished by the bravest or wisest of leaders. To intentionally discredit Him is to give too much credit to fallible men. The leaders of Israel found that while God was slow to withdraw support from them, that eventually, when they had gone too far in shutting Him out of the direction of their nation, He would bring severe trials and punishment upon them. His punishments were designed to awaken them to their unfaithfulness, not to bring suffering. Sometimes they would return to Him but other times no matter how severe the suffering they would continue in their headstrong way. This should serve as a reminder to the leaders of nations today as they wonder why their nations are falling apart with dishonesty, immorality and insensitivity. They should consider what part they have allowed God to have in the governing of their lands.

As Christians we must be careful to maintain our respect for the powers that govern our nation, but we must also assert that our highest allegiance is to God. God has ordained the powers that govern. We are to be good citizens of our nation. We are given some guidelines for living out that citizenship.

We are to pray for our leaders. If Christians were more earnest in their prayers for national, state and local leaders, perhaps those leaders would prove more open to the direction of God in their governing activities.

We are to pay our taxes. As frustrating as it is to see the money contributed to the government wasted on various inane studies, immoral activities and ungodly practices, we must patiently pay our dues. Jesus did not question how His tax money was going to be used when He was required to pay. His tax money supported the hated Roman government that oppressed the Jewish people.

We are to be good citizens. We are to obey the laws established by the ruling authority. Although many laws are arcane and unwise, they still are to be respected by Christians. Only

when a law very specifically violates the written Word of God do Christians have the freedom of disobedience. Christians must be law-abiding citizens.

While we use the right of petition, we should be careful of involvement in politics. The definition of politics is the art of compromise. Christianity is based on the standard of the Word of God, which can not be compromised. Christian thought can not be shaped by the public opinion polls; it can only be shaped by God's revealed Word.

National holidays tend to be used for glorification of the military and political skills of people past and present. While respecting our national government, we must be wise enough to realize that there would be no national blessings if it were not for the blessing and leading of God.

There is a higher Power than the government of our land, we have an Almighty God who rules and overrules.

M.C.Cook

A TREE AND A CHILD

Today we planted a tree.

It was a scrawny barren-looking specimen that came in the mail, looking like a mere twig. It stretched the imagination to picture a full-grown tree that would provide shade as well as succulent fruit, but this was its humble beginning.

The ground was prepared. The proper site was selected and a hole dug. The proper fertilizer and nourishment for this tender plant was put into the soil. With carefulness the ground was patted down around those young roots and then water was poured into the little moat

around it. All the while we envisioned those juicy, sweet, picture-perfect peaches that would someday hang from its limbs. No, it won't be this year. In fact, it won't be for a number of years but we still dream of the day. How we will enjoy the fruit!

The sun will provide the heat and light for the photosynthesis to take place within the leaves that will soon appear. The rains will give its roots drink. The winds will cause it to root down and be strong. The seasons will cause it to leaf out, blossom, produce fruit, drop its leaves, and then enjoy winter's rest.

Ah, yes, we have a tree. And we will care for it and prune it. We will spray it to protect it from diseases and bugs. We will wait, we will watch, and some day we will enjoy its fruit. Then all the work that goes into it, all the waiting, all the mulching, pruning, and spraying will pay off and we will taste the sweetness of the reward as the juices tantalize our taste buds.

Years ago my husband and I were handed a child, eight of them in fact, over a span of fifteen years. Unadorned, helpless, squalling, wrinkled, and newborn the babies were handed to us. To us they were beautiful because we saw in them the tremendous potential God placed there. We knew we would have cherished times as they grew but we dreamed of the day they would be grown and be a real asset to society, and a tool in God's Kingdom. We dreamed of the day there would be "fruit".

But there was so much work to do. They needed fed, diapered, loved, held, comforted, disciplined, nourished, consoled, taught... and the list goes on. The job looked monumental and we would have to wait for the maturing. Oh, there were the smiles and the precious

moments that infants and toddlers can bring. But still, there was much waiting.

There was "pruning" needing done. Some things needed cared for that they might grow straight and true. "Fertilizer" was given as we shared the truths of God's Word with them. They were "watered" and "sprayed" to cleanse them and keep them from the diseases and filth of this world.

The job for parents is never done. There were prayers to be prayed, guidance to be given, and tears to be shed. But there are fruits coming and we keep praying for hearts and lives so consecrated to God that the fruit is abundant. The Master Gardener is still lovingly and patiently pruning away on us as parents, waiting for maturity and for the day we reflect His image. It will continue until Heaven is our home and we are safe for all eternity.

In Psalm 128:3, God compares children to olive plants. Olive plants take years to produce fruit, but then they provide rich oil used around the world and their leaves symbolize peace to the nations. Oh, that the fruit from our children's lives would be as healing oil to an in-

jured world, and peace amidst strife.

Yes, today we planted a tree, and we are reminded that life is a time of investing and waiting for fruits. As parents, may we all reap the blessing of an abundant harvest.

"Blessed is the man...(who) shall be like a tree planted by

the rivers of water, that bringeth forth fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalms 1:3

Today we plant. Someday in the tomorrows we will reap.

Working and waiting,
Sister Sally Meyers

JESUS IS ENOUGH

Life is full of hurry and stress
As I rush, there is so much to do
And it is then that I hear that still small voice,
"Am I not enough for you?"

The work of family, the laundry, the dust
To keep things clean and renewed
That still small voice comes in like a flood,
"Am I still not enough for you?"

To cook and bake and broil and stew
So the family has food for the table
And then the Lord says softly to me,
"Am I not the One who is able?"

To shop at the store for groceries
Keep appointments so our health is strong
But the still small voice at the end of the day,
"Am I not in the midst of the throng?"

To teach the children and water the yard
So our home will be pleasant to view
The body's tired, but I hear the sweet voice,
"Am I still not enough for you?"

Yes, I'll cast my cares at your beautiful feet
To let go of the struggle, I'm free
All the tasks I do, you'll help me through,
Yes, you are enough for me!

Lord, why can't I see your blessed truth?
'Til I stop to think it can be...
That I don't have to carry this load alone,
You're more than enough for me!

-Sister Linda Cordrey

COMPASSION

L. W. Beery

Among the many virtues of the Christian life as exemplified in the activities of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while here on earth is that great attribute of compassion. There is something about this subject that appeals to a student of the New Testament scriptures in a way that grips and moves his innermost being. The reason for this is that it has to do with the heart, the seat of our affections from which flows the issues of life, and which of themselves are an evidence of which of those great spiritual forces, the Spirit of God or the satanic spirit has control of our being in this world.

In connection with the prophecies of the scriptures per-

taining to the "last days" on the earth we are given this instruction: "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." (Matt. 24:11-13.) In the mind of the writer the general condition within professing Christendom is an indication of the fulfillment of this prophecy and we would do well to give thought to its contents.

The assertion that is of particular interest in connection with the subject in mind is, "The love of many shall wax cold." Where love exists there is a strong attachment to that which is loved.

So much so that he that loves is keenly affected by anything that concerns that which is loved. This is clearly illustrated in home life where love abounds in the family. When some misfortune, sorrow or trouble besets one member of the family how keenly this matter is felt by the other members of the family. If one member of the family has a definite need or a particular desire how much the other members of the family are concerned that this need of desire is satisfied, and often great sacrifices are made in behalf of one another. This we believe is compassion.

Compassion – sorrow for the sufferings of others; sympathy, pity; we believe can properly be spoken of as love in action. It is an attribute that moves us to action in service to others that have need.

How often in the activities of our Lord Jesus Christ here on earth was he moved to action because of his compassion for others. Along the highways that he trod, in the villages, out by the seaside, everywhere he went he came in contact with the blind, the deaf, the sick, the hungry, and how often his tender heart of compassion was moved

to intervene in behalf of these unfortunate and needy beings. In this he has given us an example in Christian service that we need to be mindful of.

Jesus was keenly affected by the sorrows, sufferings and needs of others because of his great heart of love for the human family, and surely those who are his people on the earth, those who have the love of God in their hearts as they should, will evidence that same characteristic in their lives. Some day the King shall say unto them that are faithful in their service to their fellowmen, "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40.)

There is so much evil in this world in our time, so much envy, jealousy, hatred, selfishness, malice, coldness and indifference to the sorrows and distress of others, that surely "iniquity is abounding" and we need to take heed that because of this environment our love, our concern, our heart of compassion for others does not wax cold.

In our contacts with our fellowmen where compassion is shown it becomes an irresistible

force for good in testimony for Christ and his kingdom on earth. May we ever exemplify this great trait of character of our Savior in our activities. Without

it our religion will become but cold formality.

Selected from the July 1, 1946
issue of the Bible Monitor

PHILIP GOES TO THE DOGS

Acts 8:5, "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them."

The Samaritans hated the Jews. The Jews did not like the Samaritans, either. The Samaritans were referred to as "dogs". Jesus was a Jew, but there was something different about Him. He seemed to have compassion for these people.

On the Sunday before Jesus was crucified, He rode triumphantly into Jerusalem. Most folks thought at the time that He would be a king. By the end of that week He was dead and His disciples were scattered.

Just when the dust was beginning to clear from all those events, it was Pentecost. There had been rumors that Jesus had risen from the dead, but most people were not sure. If God was going to do something amongst His people the Jews, it would be during the time when Jerusalem was packed to over-

flowing. They came from all over the known world, from every known country.

Peter stood up and began to preach. Word had gotten around that a mysterious infilling of a powerful spirit had occurred among the followers of Jesus. Peter's preaching brought results unlike any ever seen. Thousands came to be baptized.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing that witnesses talked about for many years afterward was how the followers of Jesus went around to the enemies of Judaism and preached! They literally went to the dogs.

This was the most powerful testimony of love anyone had ever seen. If you grow up thinking that someone is your enemy it takes a very powerful force to reverse that opinion. In the time of Christ nationalism was very strong. People did not want anyone to see them in the pres-

ence of their enemies. What incredible power could make them love their enemies?

In modern times we, too, have enemies. People hate Jesus. They hate what He stands for. Especially, they hate Him because He exposes them for what they are vile sinners in need of a Savior.

So they tell us, in books, on television, in movies, that He was not the Son of God, but only a man. Some even say that He faked His resurrection, married, and had children.

Those of us who have been powerfully affected by Him to the extent that we repented of our sins and changed our direction in life and reached out, not just to our loved ones, but also to our enemies, we know better.

He not only was the Son of God, but He is and ever will be the Son of God. There are other enemies that tell us that Jesus was merely a prophet. Then they come to an area and say, "Become one of us, or die." But Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

Why did Philip go to Samaria? Was it because Jesus loved him so much that he COULD NOT HELP but pass that love along to others, especially his enemies? What about our enemies? Have they been told about Jesus?

Brother Lynn H. Miller

WORKS THAT ABIDE

The love or charity of First Corinthians 13 and the precious stones of 3:12 of the same book came to our home in the form of a fifty-year-old drunken, homeless, underweight, and very sick cousin. When I heard talk that he wanted to come live with us and work for my husband, my immediate response was something to the effect that it would

not happen in my lifetime.

But he did come, and I accepted him and cooked a little more, and watched mostly from the sidelines. It was my husband who measured out the teaspoons of liquor for two weeks to make sure he did not go into delirium tremens; it was he who talked and listened and then when healing took place offered

him a job. After a friendly "Good morning" to start the day, I mostly ignored this cousin of my husband.

Then one day as I walked past his open bedroom door, I saw on the light gray carpet a smattering of body excrement, the results of gastro-enteritis. Our guest was in the kitchen washing the breakfast dishes. Two thoughts came to my mind. The first: "This is my husband's idea and his relative, so my husband can clean it up." The second thought was that I could give the cleaning materials to the one who made the spot and use the opportunity to teach a little responsibility.

I chose neither of those options, but knelt down on my hands and knees and started scrubbing. One more very unloving thought went through my mind. "If this spot doesn't come out, the church's assistance committee should pay for my new carpet."

But I kept scrubbing. And suddenly I found myself overcome with tears and I felt an overwhelming love for my Jesus and for the cousin in the kitchen. The Lord seemed to say to me, "My child, your stiff-necked wel-

come policy to this man isn't love (it's wood, hay, and stubble). All the meals you've cooked, the extra desserts, the purchase of his special ice cream isn't love (it's wood, hay...). Your willing payment of a bigger grocery and water bill isn't love (it's wood...). I've got you on your knees now and your heart is where it should be, and that is love that abides." (And now abideth...charity. If any man's work abide...he shall receive a reward. I Corinthians 13:13 and 3:14)

I don't know much about the works that abide or the rewards for those works, but the Bible talks about gold, silver, and precious stones, and I do feel that I earned one tiny precious stone that day on my knees scrubbing carpet. I wish I could say that our guest turned to Christ and gave up his alcohol, his cigarettes, and his life on the streets. He didn't. It is almost five years since he spent six months in our home and he's back to the city and full time drinking. God doesn't make me accountable for this man, but He does require that I be faithful.

XXX

Sister Mary Sue Moss

HELP US REMEMBER

Heavenly Father, Help us remember
that the jerk who cut us off in traffic
last night is a single mother who
worked nine hours that day and
is rushing home to cook dinner,
help with homework,
do the laundry and spend a
few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the
pierced, tattooed, disinterested
young man who can't make
change correctly is a worried
19-year-old college student,
balancing his apprehension
over final exams with his
fear of not getting his
student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord
that the scary looking bum,
begging for money in the same
spot every day (who really ought
to get a job!) is a slave to addictions
that we can only imagine in our
worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the
old couple walking annoyingly
slow through the store aisles
and blocking our shopping
progress are savoring this
moment, knowing that,
based on the biopsy report
she got back last week, this
will be the last year that they
go shopping together.

Heavenly Father,
remind us each day that,
of all the gifts you give us
the greatest gift is love.

It is not enough to share
that love with those
we hold dear.

Open our hearts not to
just those who are
close to us,
but all humanity.

Let us be slow to judge
and quick to forgive,
show patience,
empathy and
love.

-Unknown

BIBLE STORY

GOD KNOWS

Gen. 4:1-16

Cain was the first son of Adam and Eve and Abel was their second. They grew up like other boys do and I suppose that because Cain was the older that he thought he should be treated with more respect than Abel. Now Cain liked to till the ground and grow crops that produced food. Abel liked animals and he was a keeper of sheep.

When it was harvest time for

Cain he brought of the fruit of the ground for a sacrifice unto the Lord and Abel brought the best of his flock of sheep to sacrifice to the Lord. The Bible says that the Lord had respect unto Abel's sacrifice but unto Cain's offering He had no respect. This made Cain very angry and God talked with Cain about it and reasoned with him. God said, "If you do well you will be accepted

but if you don't do well it is sinful." Being sinful means to disobey God and that is displeasing to Him. For some reason Cain's heart was not right with God. I think we can assume that he was a proud man and for God to accept his younger brother's offering and reject his was just too much. Cain became very jealous of Abel and hated him. One time when they were out in the field Cain killed his brother Abel.

Abel had been a good man and God loved him. Cain buried his brother's body so that no one would know what happened – but God knew. And the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother?"

Cain replied to God, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Then God said, "What have you done? The voice of your

brother's blood cries unto me from the ground."

Nothing is hid from the Lord and He told Cain He would curse the ground. When Cain tried to grow crops it wouldn't produce like it once did for him and possibly because of this he would be a wanderer over the face of the earth, continually trying to find a better place to farm.

Cain complained to the Lord that everyone that found him would want to kill him for murdering Abel so the Lord put a mark on Cain so that anyone who saw it would know that it would be wrong to kill Cain.

What a sad life Cain had. How much better to have asked the Lord to forgive his sin of pride and to have been accepted and respected like Abel.

Brother Rudy Cover

"I'M TELLING!"

"I'm telling!" These words bring dread to this first grade teacher. I often hear them this year, and know there will be some problem to deal with. Often it is not a major situation, but it is important to the child. "I'm telling! Teacher, Matthew

kicked me." "I'm telling. Alyssa butted in line!" One time it was, "Tyler is pulling out his hairs and throwing them at me!"

I've decided instead of "I'm telling" being a bad thing, we can turn it into something positive. This is what I'll tell:

"I'm telling!" Did you hear how God answered our prayers for my friend – she has been healed!

"I'm telling!" Let me tell you what happened. God provided – many people came and helped to tear out the old drywall and put up new walls, and paid for it themselves.

"I'm telling!" In devotions I read this wonderful verse, "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the heart. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." Proverbs 21:2-3

"I'm telling!" God has blessed me through you. Thank you for

listening to me, understanding, and challenging me to do better.

"I'm telling!" You do a good job leading singing.

"I'm telling!" We prayed for safety, and God granted it. We traveled 1,200 miles, with two children, and pulling a trailer, in the snow, and got back home safely.

"I'm telling!" We heard a good sermon today. It was about living in hope.

"I'm telling!" Good things are in store for those who believe!

"I'm telling!" Do you know Jesus? Let me tell you about Him.

Sister Arlene Birt

IN DEFENSE OF BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

In recent years some have questioned the need for Sunday School time for the adult members. Statistics have revealed a loss of attendance during the Sunday School hour in many denominations.

The Sunday School movement was begun in 1785 by

Robert Raikes to give moral and religious instruction to the very poor. It first became active among the Brethren about 1845. It was not accepted by many congregations until several years later. Today there are some Brethren groups that do not have Sunday School. We respect those groups and individuals that do not promote Sunday School for conscience sake. To our knowledge Sunday School was never a matter for

discussion for the Dunkard Brethren movement. However, some individuals within the movement refused to attend. We generally prefer using the term Bible Study in place of Sunday School for adults.

The Sunday School time **should be** a time of Bible Study. Some use quarterlies with printed lessons. Unfortunately, some other version than the King James Version is often supplied in these lesson books. Some use books supposedly based on Bible truths. At best this is the reasoning of man. Some Sunday School time is so topic oriented that the link to the Bible is hardly recognizable. We believe there can be variety in the Children's Sunday School time.

While there is no reference to a dedicated Bible Study time recorded in Scripture, this may have been a part of the gatherings for worship. I Corinthians 14:34-35, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." may be in reference to

a time of open discussion. Of course the Bible was not completed yet at this time. We are not inferring that it is necessarily wrong for a woman to speak in Sunday School. A woman should not teach men in a Sunday School setting.

There have been times of strong disagreement linked to a Sunday School lesson. But it can be healthy to discuss our differences if it is done in the right spirit. Those with a contentious spirit will find an outlet for it even if a Sunday School time is not available. A teacher should not feel the need to be always right.

Although the position of Sunday School teacher may be held by a church official, it also gives others the opportunity to be used. Personally, we think it good to have more than one teacher during a month's lessons.

Though the right time and method must be employed, the Sunday School time is a good time to emphasize our peculiar beliefs that are not shared by Christianity in general. While we should not speak on an issue just because a certain individual is present, especially a visitor, we need not apologize for what

we believe if it is based on Holy Scripture and a part of our heritage.

In II Peter 1:20 we read, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." Many believe the word "prophecy" in this verse refers to the full revelation of Holy Scripture rather than to end time events. Personal Bible study is important and should be a daily practice, but it is also good to be in a group setting for Bible study. One should not replace the other. If we are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit the remarks of others can be a spiritual growth experience.

Each teacher has his own teaching style. While we, personally, do not think the Sunday

School time should be a sermon, we must respect the methods of others. Some groups are more open to discussion than others. Some lessons are easier to ask the group questions than others are. We feel a teacher should be a leader in place of an authority figure. A teacher should not compromise his convictions or the Word of God.

Some small groups have Sunday School without worship if a preacher is not available. We do not believe Sunday School should replace a preaching service unless absolutely necessary.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

STANDING BEFORE A JUDGE

Have you ever stood before a judge? I did a few years ago, and it was an experience I will not soon forget.

May 5, 2003 at 9:30 A.M. was my court date. It was an appointment I made sure not to miss. At 9:25 I gathered in the courtroom with a handful of other nervous people. When the robed judge strode in at 9:30 sharp, I

couldn't help but feel guilty.

Although my offence (failure to have proof of insurance in my vehicle) was hardly a sin, I had broken the law and there were consequences to pay. The officer who had pulled me over for malfunctioning tail lights told me the fine for not having an insurance certificate could be over \$300.00. If I appeared in court

with proof of insurance, I MIGHT get the fine reduced. I so hoped.

The judge sat behind his massive desk and began to call the names of the accused. I soon realized there is no privacy in a court of law. Each person's crime was clearly announced and he was given the chance to plead guilty or not guilty. The judge looked each one in the eye and asked pointed questions. "What were you thinking when you wrote that bad check?" "Why didn't you respond to that notice we mailed you?" "Why didn't you pay?"

He was very firm, very fair, yet he was kind. He commended a woman for seeking help for her gambling addiction.

I found the whole process fascinating. I couldn't help but think of the final judgment day, that accounting before God of not just one mistake, but of my life.

My name was called and I walked toward the judge.

He smiled at me.

He looked over my paper work and announced my crime. "Do you have insurance?" he asked. I produced the necessary proof and he said, "I don't punish people for having insurance. Your case is dismissed."

The judge stamped the words "CASE DISMISSED" in bold letters across my papers.

He handed back my proof of insurance and said, "Keep this in your car."

"Yes, sir, I will," I answered him.

"You are free to go." The judge dismissed me and went on to the other cases. I quietly walked out of the courtroom, but inside I was running and skipping and shouting. "Yessss! Praise the Lord!"

On the way home I felt free and happy. I realized I had not only been through a court hearing, I had had a spiritual experience. I can still see that judge's smile as I walked toward him. Although I had no idea what my judgment would be, that smile put me at ease. I knew he was not only fair, but also kind and forgiving. Since I had the necessary papers "case dismissed" was stamped across my crime.

Are my "spiritual papers" in order? Have my sins been put under Christ's blood? Am I daily obeying God, keeping current in my relationship with Him? Will that Great Judge greet me with a smile?

Sister Laura Hawbaker

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Godly Minister

J. H. Moore

It was in the month of August 1859, one Saturday evening, that we were all in a state of expectancy. The yard had been raked, the house had been put in trim, some extra baking had been done, and a cheerful look had taken possession of the whole family. We were looking for the preacher that evening. He lived twenty-five miles to the south, and did not come very often, but when he did come, he was given a welcome accorded few ministers in these days of business and bustle.

I was then a lad thirteen years old, and our home, as stated, was in Missouri. A few days before I had told my mother that I wanted to be baptized when Uncle Billy came down the next time. That is what we all called him. His real name was Eld. Wm. Gish, and his home was some distance south of Stockton, the county seat of Cedar County. We all loved the old preacher most dearly, and never knew how to do enough for him. He always rode on horseback, and we were as fa-

miliar with the name of his horse "Bally," as with the preacher himself. In fact to call out in childish delight, "Old Bally is coming!" meant as much as to say, "Uncle Billy is coming." In those days, when preachers were few and much loved, Bro. Gish was sure to be greeted outside of the yard gate by the whole family, baby and all. Even the family dogs seemed to take in the situation and commence their doggish pranks. Usually old Bally was loaded up with children, taken to the well, given a good drink of the best water in the country and then assigned a comfortable place in the log barn.

That night a chapter from the Bible, a song from the little hymn book, and the prayer of the godly man prepared us for the sleep which only the happy and cheerful can enjoy. In my boyish way of looking at things I regarded Bro. Gish as the best man in the world. I often wished that I could be just as good as he was. In him I had the utmost confidence. I thought that everything he did was just right. I

cannot now remember one thing he ever said, and yet I sat and listened to his preaching with the greatest interest. I would have walked five miles any Sunday to hear him preach.

The next morning, of course, was Sunday, and we were all up bright and early, so as to get ready in good time for meeting. Our meeting day was the best of the days. We never had any thought of missing even one service. There were three of us to be baptized, myself being the youngest one. I distinctly remember that in laying the order before the applicants one of the deacons said, "We will say nothing to John about the order in dress. We can explain that to him when he gets older." Well, decades have come and gone, but that part of the visit has never been completed.

The meeting was in a schoolhouse on a hill to the north. After meeting we went on a little further to the north, into

the edge of St. Clair County, and there had prayer on the bank of one of nature's pools. The water had for centuries been plunging down over a huge rock shelf, and had scooped out a large basin, that was quite deep at the upper end. Into this pool, surrounded by trees, the applicants were led, and buried with Christ in the holy ordinance of Christian baptism. I came from the liquid grave fully resolved to live a new life in another kingdom. Since then the years have come and gone. My life became crowded with incidents, but in all of my wanderings I have never gotten entirely beyond the influence of the godly man who assisted me to mount the steps and pass into the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I would that all the ambassadors of the cross could be respected and loved as was this earnest preacher, whose visits to my father's family were the most blessed occasions in my early life.

"THE KINGDOM"

B. F. Masterson

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And saying: Repent ye – for the kingdom of

heaven is at hand." (Matt. 3:1-2.) This was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, where he says: "The voice of him that

crieth in the wilderness; Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

This figure was taken from the practice of the eastern monarchs, when entering on an expedition or a journey, especially when passing through desert or new country, would send fore-runners before them to prepare all things for passage, and pioneers to open passes, level the ways and remove all impediments.

So John was commissioned of God as a forerunner and pioneer of the Messiah to the Jewish church to announce his advent and to prepare the hearts for the reception of her King, for she was at this time barren of Christian morals, destitute of religious cultivation like a desert, unfruitful in true piety and good works, unfit without reformation for the reception of her King.

He delivered the message in

no uncertain sound. He said to the Pharisees and Sadducees: "Oh, generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" You self-righteous, higher-ups, come down to the level of your insignificance; be what you are instead of what you pretend to be; and you low-lived characters who have spent your all in debauchery and righteous living, come upon a level of decency; and you dishonest crooks, straighten your dishonest dealings, that your hearts may be a fit dwelling for your King — for this is not a material Kingdom, but a spiritual one that is at hand. "My kingdom is not of this world." Repent ye, therefore, for "He will order it and establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever."

When the Roman Government had reached the climax of imperial splendor and military glory, and at peace with the whole world, this stone (which Daniel refers to) cut out of the mountain made without hands, which shall never be destroyed; which shall not be left to other people and shall break to pieces all other kingdoms, had its beginning under the Roman Government, in a province ruled by

the same. It had seemingly a small beginning; like a grain of mustard seed is less than all the seeds, but when it is sown it groweth up and becometh greater than all herbs. Christ's governing influence over his people constitutes this Kingdom, and its development has been marvelous and is still in process of growth, and will continue to develop until all things are put under His feet, all enemies subdued. What will take place in the intervening time is fraught with speculation, but all prophecies concerning the Kingdom will be fulfilled.

He who thinks that this Kingdom is an organization, his spiritual vision is focusing too near self. Organism is more than organization. "...and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Which is his body...." (Eph. 1:22-23.)

He whom Jesus governs is a member of the body, of which Jesus is head, irrespective of race, caste or organization. "The good seed are the children of the Kingdom." He who expects to become a citizen of this Kingdom must be in earnest. It requires a powerful effort to enter it, because all the lower regents will oppose every step

taken towards it. Jesus says: "The law and the prophets were until John; since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." (Luke 16:16.) The German translation says "And every man passeth with force into it." Again Jesus says: "And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." (Matt. 11:12.) This language implies that it is no child's play to gain possession of the kingdom of Heaven. It naturally requires a conflict because of the strong opposition.

Jesus says: "Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." The word "strait" implies difficult to get through. But the modern preacher has no use for the above scriptures. They offer the entrance into the Kingdom on easy terms. It seems all they require is to join a religious organization, and if the applicant has plenty of material means, it is all the better, for it takes much of it to run the extensive machinery. The new birth is not stressed, which is the prerequisite to an entrance into the Kingdom. Jesus says, "Verily, ver-

ily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3.) It brings about a radical change in one's character. That which was too high or too low is brought to a proper level of sober thinking. And crooked dealings with his fellow men will be corrected, made straight; a fit place for Christ to dwell. Christ will not dwell in a heart full of sin. "A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand."

But why is it called a Kingdom? Because of its laws. It has positive commands, as well as moral precepts. Jesus calls it "The gospel of the kingdom." Paul calls it the law of faith. (Rom. 3:27.) Again he says: "...the word of faith, which we preach." (Rom. 10:8.)

Because of its subjects, who are obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7), who of their own free will promise allegiance to the King and Sovereign of Heaven and earth. (Matt. 28:18.)

Christ never saved a soul he did not govern. Nor is He precious to anyone who does not feel a spirit of subjection to His divine law.

But why called the kingdom of Heaven? Because God has designed that the kingdom of

grace on earth should resemble the kingdom of glory above, hence our Lord teaches us to pray: "Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven." It does not consist of the gratification of sensual passions or worldly ambitions. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." (Rom. 14:17.) Now what can there be more in glory than this? Righteousness without sin; peace without strife or contention; joy in the Holy Ghost, without mixture of misery, remorse or regret. All this is possible to enjoy here in God's kingdom by the grace of our lord.

How then does Heaven itself differ from this state? It makes righteousness, peace and joy eternal. This is the Heaven of Heavens. This Kingdom is at hand for you, dear sinner. Jesus is proclaimed to you as infinitely able and willing to save you "by grace through faith."

"Of its increase there shall be no end." "It did not rise to fall." "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18), or the power of death shall not overthrow it. "Destroy this temple, and in

three days I will raise it up again", said Jesus, having reference to His body. The enemy will fall to rise in shame and everlasting contempt, and the saints to everlasting life.

Publishing houses are erected, schools are established to equip missionaries to take the Bible to heathen lands, teaching all nations and many are brought under the holy influence of the Kingdom. "The kingdom of Heaven shall never be destroyed, but it shall brake and consume all these kingdoms."

The world has now lasted nearly six thousand years (I have read somewhere, years ago). That ancient tradition predicted its termination at the close of this period. Its duration is divided in three grand periods, each comprising two thousand years, which should be closed by a period without terminating limit. These are supposed to have their type in the six days work of the creation, and the seventh day is called the day of rest.

The first two thousand years without any written revelation from God, called the patriarchal dispensation.

The second two thousand years under the law, a written

revelation, the mosaic dispensation.

The third 1930 years since Jesus was born, called the mediatorial Kingdom, or Kingdom of grace or church militant. Seventy years and this period will close, each day typifying a thousand years. One day is with the Lord as a thousand years." (II Pet. 3:8.) At the termination of each day's work it was said: "The evening and the morning was the first day, so, on to the sixth; but this Sabbath was left without any termination; therefore a proper type of the eternal Sabbath – the rest which remains for the children of God.

Are we indeed so near the time that Peter speaks of in his second epistle, third chapter (read it), and concludes by saying: "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory, both now and forever. Amen."

Are we indeed so near the time of the consummation of all earthly things?

Is the fifth Empire, the stone

cut out of the mountain of God's eternal purpose about to consume all the kingdoms?

Are all the visions and prophecies about to be sealed up and the whole earth to be illuminated with the beams of righteousness?

Are the impenitent to be swept off of the face of the earth

with the broom of destruction, while the righteous shall lift up their heads with unspeakable joy and see their redemption drawing nigh, and the new Jerusalem coming down out of Heaven?

Selected from the January 1, 1930 issue of the Bible Monitor

OUR IDOLS

A.T. Pierson

Our reliance is too much on the charms of this world in drawing souls to the Gospel and to the Saviour. The Holy Spirit will not tolerate our idols. If we will have artistic and secular types of music, substituting art for simple praise; if we will have elaborate ritual in place of

prayer: simple believing prayer; if we will have eloquent lectures in place of simple, earnest Gospel preaching, we must not wonder if no Shekinah fires burn in our sanctuaries.

Selected by
Brother Lynn Miller

OBITUARY

JAY H. BURKHOLDER

Jay H. Burkholder, son of the late Dillman and Sadie (Myer) Burkholder, was born on December 9, 1931. On April 7, 2006, he departed this life at the age of 74 years.

Jay is survived by his wife, Margaret (Ebersole) and four sons: Michael and wife Elma (Hess), Raymond and wife Cindy (Longenecker), Glenn and wife Debra (Longenecker), Lee and wife Kathy (Snyder). He is also survived by twenty grandchildren, twenty-four great grandchildren, and a twin brother Ray D. Burkholder.

At the young age of fifty, Jay suffered a stroke, which left his right side paralyzed and rendered him unable to speak.

Jay was a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church and resided at the Mount Hope Dunkard Brethren Church Home for twenty-three years.

We yield him to the Great Physician to await the first and best resurrection where he will be given a new and perfect body. We trust our loss is his eternal gain.

The Family

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

Please add to the Ministerial List, Bro. Alan Meyers, 2387 268th Lane, Adel, IA 50003, Phone: 515-993-3434

DEACON LIST CHANGE

Please add to the Deacon List, Bro. Nelson Hawbaker, 2714 270th Street, Dallas Center, IA 50063, Phone: 515-992-3267

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans to have a Harvest Meeting on Sunday, August 13. All are welcome.

Plevna also plans a revival, August 20 through 27, with Brother Wes Miller from the Quinter Congregation as evangelist.

Preaching services each evening start at 7:30 P.M. Saturday, August 26, at 2:00 P.M. is our Examination Service with Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M.

Your presence and prayers are welcome.

Sister Margaret Birt, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation has chosen August 20 through 27 for Revival Meetings. Brother Justin Beck has consented to be our speaker, Lord willing. Services begin Sunday 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. Weekday services are at 7:30 P.M.

Our Harvest Meeting is planned for September 24. Brother Lloyd Lorenz will furnish the message from God's Word. Every-

one is welcome!

Our Lovefeast is set for the fourth Saturday of October. Services are 11:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. on Saturday.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

THANK YOU

We want to thank all of you for your prayers supporting Ethan through the past year. The encouraging cards and financial help, that so many of you sent, meant a lot to us. Ethan finished his treatments in February and recent tests show no signs of cancer. We praise the Lord for this and for a praying Church family. God is faithful!

Brother Ethan and Sister Melissa Moss

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for helping to bear our burden during John's illness. Over the past three years we received many notes of encouragement along with monetary gifts. Many times your gift was a specific answer to our prayers! We are thankful the Lord is allowing us to experience His awesome faithfulness! May the Lord bless each of you as it says in Proverbs 11:25.

Brother John, Sister Kenda and Rosalynn Beck

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD VEHICLE FUND

The Africa Mission Board of the Dunkard Brethren Church has decided to begin a fund for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Mission in Kenya. We presently have two vehicles, both of which receive plenty of hard use. Several of the congregations to which our missionaries travel are in mountainous locations. During the rainy seasons it is not unusual to drive through flooded streams as well as very muddy roads that can become deeply rutted by truck traffic. More often than not the vehicles are filled to overflowing with passengers, some who on occasion, are not human. Our oldest vehicle, a Toyota van has given many years of reliable service. We hope it still has several years of life and reliability left in it before it becomes too costly or impractical to maintain. Our other

vehicle is a Toyota Land Cruiser, which has demonstrated the best ability to navigate all the conditions, which our missionaries must travel. It is our preference to purchase a second Land Cruiser once we have enough funds to do so.

This is a costly purchase. With the necessary add-ons that allow it to travel over the roughest roads and transport a wide variety of materials on a heavy-duty roof rack the cost will be close to \$40,000. Our legal status in the past required that a Value Added Tax be added to the purchase of the Land Cruiser we now have. That tax alone increased the cost by \$15,000. We are applying for Registration as a legal entity in Kenya, a process that has been going on for several years. It is still unclear how soon our legal status will change thus eliminating the Value Added Tax to any new vehicle purchase.

So it seems prudent to us to both begin a Vehicle Fund that will eventually provide a replacement vehicle for our aging van and to wait to purchase this vehicle once our Registration is complete. We will appreciate any donations that the Lord will provide through you toward this future need of our Mission in Kenya. Donations should be made out to:

Africa Mission Vehicle Fund
C/o Phil Franklin
Secretary, Africa Mission Board
1520 Brannon Ave.
Modesto, CA 95350

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 2006

August 6 – The Evil of Presumption – James 4:7-17

1. Can we effectively resist the devil before we have learned submission to our God?
2. Why is it evil to presume about tomorrow?

August 13 – Investment Tip: Patience Now or Howl Later – James 5:1-12

1. How is it when one supposes he is “heaping up” treasures for his last days, he in reality may be “heaping up” wrath against the last days?
2. Does patience develop a proper perspective of life and it's difficult circumstances, or does a proper perspective of life teach us patience?

August 20 – Faithful Prayers and Faithful Intervention – James 5:13-20

1. In regards to healing, is God's plan for the Church in this generation primarily the miraculous gifts of healing, or the anointing with oil along with the prayer of faith?
2. When confessing our faults to one another are “blanket confessions” sufficient or is it important that we be specific?

August 27 – A Living Hope, Tested and Imperishable – I Peter 1:1-12

1. What is the object of our hope?
2. For what purpose does the Lord bring or permit manifold temptations in the believer's life?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 2006

August 6 – The Ark – Gen. 6:1-22

1. What was the approximate size of the ark in feet?
2. How long did Noah take to build the ark?

August 13 – Miraculous Catch of Fish – Luke 5:1-11

1. Define draught.
2. How do we as disciples of Christ catch men?

August 20 – Cooperation – Matt. 18:19-20; I Cor. 1:10-11; Phil.
1:27-30

1. Cooperation by nature involves working with others. Does fierce individualism have any place in the body of Christ?
2. What needs to be crucified if we are to have cooperation in the work of the kingdom?

August 27 – Stewards – Matt. 25:14-15; I Cor. 4:2; I Cor. 6:19-20;
I Peter 4:10-16

1. Who is a steward accountable to?
2. What are we to be stewards of?

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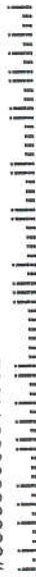
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BIBLE MONITOR

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AUGUST, 2006

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

COMMUNION

In trouble and in grief, O God,
Thy smile hath cheered my way;
And joy hath budded from each thorn
That round my footsteps lay.

The hours of pain have yielded good,
Which prosp'rous days refused;
As herbs, tho' scentless when entire,
Spread fragrance when they're bruised.

The oak strikes deeper, as its boughs
By furious blasts are driv'n;
So life's tempestuous storms the more
Have fixed my heart in heav'n.

All gracious Lord, whate'er my lot
In other times may be,
I'll welcome still the heaviest grief
That brings me near to thee.

-Anonymous

TESTING

As students return to school this fall, they know that they will be facing tests. Tests are one of the staples of education. Although a test is not pleasant, when completed and passed, it becomes an accomplishment. It marks competency in the subject tested.

Other tests are given outside the formal school system. Tests are used to determine a person's ability to perform tasks connected with his employment. Many professions require proof of competency by passing a certain test. Doctors, pharmacists, therapists, and nurses are a few in the medical field who must pass state and national boards. Without a passing score they are not judged to be competent to deal with the health needs of

their patients.

There are many diverse fields of labor that demand a certificate or license that can only be procured by passing a test. This can apply to construction, aviation, physical training, computer repair, financial accounting, and fields far more diverse. Other occupations require tests of physical strength and agility that are not administered in the classroom but on the training field. First responders, policemen, firemen and other emergency personnel must pass psychological as well as physical tests to prove their competence. Perhaps the most common of all tests is the driving test. Tests are an important part of life today.

We should not be surprised

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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that there are other tests that will come into our lives. These are tests that affect our spiritual lives. It is a certain thing that we will be tried if we are serious about our relationship with the Lord. The enemy of our souls will try to discourage us from being committed to the Lord. When Satan sees a high level of commitment, he will use whatever means he can to dissuade us following Jesus. He will bring against us any charge that he thinks would keep us from our commitment. He will use any enticement that might cause us to veer from the way. Being dedicated means we must meet these challenges or we will not pass the test.

Tests and trials may take many forms. Satan is not averse to using whatever form that would gain for him the victory. He is not fair in his testing. An educator must be careful about the design of the test used to measure competency. It must be worded so the question can be answered in a reasonable way. The test must cover the material that has been presented. Satan is never bound by any rules of fairness. He will gain any advantage that he can.

Satan wants the one being

tested to feel he is alone. Feeling alone and being depressed will make him an easier target. Separation makes the testing much easier than when there is a feeling of available help nearby. Satan realizes this, so he will try to keep the victim of his trial away from others who might offer encouragement or succor.

Satan will lie to his victim to persuade him to do wrong. Certainly too late, Eve found out the wily serpent was not truthful. She listened to his explanation as if he were sharing the truth of God with her.

As we face the various trials and temptations of life, we must remember that we have a wily enemy. He is not past using any means to get an advantage over us. We must be prepared to overcome his attack. First, being knowledgeable about his means of attack will be our first defense. Second, we must be aware of any unholy desires within our lives that we must guard against. If there is an opportunity for Satan to exploit any such flaw, he will use it. Third, we must remember that God is the ultimate victor over Satan. As the children of God, we can call on Him to be

our strength. He will use our weaknesses to make His strength perfect to withstand the Devil's attacks. Fourth, we must remember that we must keep ourselves in the place of service and in fellowship so we are in the stronghold of God's love and protection. We must be where He wants us to be. Fifth, we must be willing to bear the heat and burden of the day that we might be in the forefront of the battle. God's victors are not shrinking violets or those hiding among the stuff. They are at their posts meeting the chal-

lenges before them.

Life holds many tests and trials. Satan will do his best to use them to his advantage. He will seek to use the trial to defeat the believer. As the believer finds his courage and help in God he will become an overcomer. He will pass the test if he allows God to be his help and strength.

Are you prepared for the test? Are you being tested? What will be the outcome of your test? Who will be the source of your victory?

M.C.Cook

LISTENING

One elderly lady, to answer the question how she was such an effective prayer warrior said that she didn't talk to God, she just listened. The interviewer then asked, "And what does God say to you?" To this the saint exclaimed, "Oh, He doesn't talk, He just listens." In order for listening to happen there does have to be talking. But when listening receives more emphasis than talking then true communication takes place.

Listening during prayer can happen. It happened to me...once. I was earnestly be-

seaching the Lord for a teacher for our Christian school. In the twenty years of its existence this was only the fourth time that the teacher search had been necessary. My three children had graduated, and I volunteered one day a week as a teacher's aide. For some reason I felt compelled to pray for the vacant teacher position. I had gone so far as to find two qualified teachers in another state and my prayer went like this,

"Dear Lord, which of these two men are you going to convict to move to Iowa?"

You know the need is great, and these two guys are single, they enjoy teaching, and I think they would enjoy living in the mid-west." I continued my litany as chief Lord's helper, when mid-sentence I heard the words, "**You** will fill this position."

It was a well placed volley, one I could not dodge. I suddenly realized that the Lord was listening to me. He wasn't agreeing with me, but He was listening.

Now it was my turn to listen. I turned into a reluctant Moses called to lead the Israelites.

My prayer changed to "Lord, I can't do that. I'm a nurse, not a teacher...I'm fifty-four years old...I work three days a week at the local nursing home...I'm not strong enough to work five days...I love my job as Assistant Director of Nursing...I love solving nursing problems without putting in the problem hours (weekend and holidays)...

And then I said, meekly, "Okay, Lord, I'll say 'Yes' to you, but I'm not saying one word to the school board about this conversation." I did say something to my husband thinking that his comment would be, "I don't think so." Instead he said, "Sounds

like a good idea to me." Not the answer I was hoping for!

Three days later the school board did ask me to teach and I accepted. (It's never good to try to change the Lord's mind.)

That was six years ago. That message from the Lord turned my career around 180 degrees, but it didn't give me a mandate to forge ahead in the work without daily (sometimes hourly) seeking His will.

Ezra 7:10 has been my heartbeat "For Ezra **prepared** his heart, to **seek** the law of the Lord and to **do** it and to **teach**...." And several verses from the following chapter, Ezra 8:15-36 "...I viewed the people...and found there none of the sons of Levi. And by the good hand of our God...they brought us a man of understanding...to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance...The hand of our God is upon all them for good, that seek him...So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was entreated for us...the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy...And they delivered the king's commissions...and they

furthered the people and the house of God."

Ezra was given a mandate first from Cyrus and directly through Artaxerxes, and it set his heart to return to Jerusalem. The king's decree, however, was not what protected Ezra in the journey or gave direction for the day. It was the careful viewing of his charges, the accepting of help from men of good understanding, the seeking of the right way for the little ones,

and from being in prayer always and fasting often. For this reason he was able to safely deliver the king's commission for the furthering of souls and the house of God.

Today I eagerly seek God's guidance for the school room and listen as He says, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Sister Mary Sue Moss

CONFERENCE 2006

Conference is always a time of anticipation and anxiety. We anticipate what will happen, whom we will see, and what spiritual blessings await us. We are anxious to get there, and anxious to get everything done so we can get there.

"...to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." II Peter 1:1

There is an attraction for those of us who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The thought of gathering together with a large number of God's children when there is usually just a few

of us is wonderful to contemplate. Learning to know those of "like precious faith" builds us up in the faith and gives us hope.

Our emphasis here is not on the personalities present, or what they said or did, but on the harmony of purpose that was such an evidence of the Holy Spirit's working among us. Each speaker recognized the importance of each Christian carrying out the commands of the Master. Every service brought honor and glory to the One deserving of it: the Lord Jesus Christ. Can we ever begin to show just a little of our love to the One who first loved us?

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Romans 14:17

A gathering of the Saints of God for the Glory of God yields the above result: joy, peace and righteousness. We reap the benefits of communal prayer and the hearing of the Word of God. But we can only Glory in God, not in our coming together,

for the scripture says, "...where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20)

My prayer is that we will always honor God on these occasions because it is for our good and for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

MANY THANKS

As I reflect on our annual Conference held in Ohio I feel so indebted to so many people. My heart is overwhelmed with gratefulness. I would like to express some of that with the hopes that those to whom it is written will read it and know they are appreciated.

What a blessed time it was at Conference! How I cherish the fellowship and love of brethren and sisters from across the nation! I am reminded more each year of how I need the Church and how I am blessed and encouraged by the exhortations, fellowship, and bonds we have as family in the Lord. I prize dearly the memory of visiting with all you dear sisters who

are an inspiration to me. Some of you I met for the first time but I feel like we "connected" as we shared our love for the Lord.

The messages over the pulpit were rich and filling. I thank you, Elders and Ministers, for the many hours of study, work and prayer you put into your labor for the Lord. I felt like my hungry soul was richly fed and I want you to know God used you to feed us. What a blessing to be fed! I could mention specific sermons that really met needs in my life but for fear of overlooking some I won't do that. I especially appreciate when it is obvious that much time was spent in the Word as you prepared, since it is the Word that

holds the keys to life.

Thanks to all you song leaders and Sunday school teachers. You play a vital role in a service with your leading and teaching! Thanks to Sister Melissa Brock for sharing her testimony with the women. What a blessing to hear the difference the Lord makes in a person's life.

Thank you to the Elders who labored for hours and hours in Standing Committee. I fully realize that while I am enjoying a light schedule and much time for visiting at Conference, some of you carry a heavy load and are weighted down with the work of the Church and God's Kingdom. Thank you, thank you for watching out for our souls – for being willing to shoulder the weight of the work, for taking time to seek the Lord's direction, for working along with the other brethren as you share visions for the Church, put up guard rails to prevent calamities, and seek how to better meet the needs of the flock. Many of us appreciate very much what you are doing and also the spirit in which you are doing it. I also want to commend you for having the character to be willing to confess when you fail, and to ask forgive-

ness. It only increases our respect for you and I, for one, feel very protected, secure and safe under your protection. (Heb. 13:17)

A special thanks to the Youth Activities Committee for the work they put into our young people at Conference. Your efforts pay off as we see our young people singing together, enjoying each other's fellowship, and growing together in the Lord. God bless you!

Thank you, Bro. Kenton, for being willing to take care of the sound system and all that entails. I know you put a lot of time and effort into it.

Many thanks to Steve and Karen Blocher and all the cooks who worked so hard to provide us with those good meals. There were many hours of labor that went into that, while I was sitting under the sound of preaching or pleasantly chatting with someone. Thanks, too, to all the members of the Second District churches who worked hard to serve the meals and take care of people's needs.

There is still the Lodging Committee to thank for all their work. No doubt, there are many others but I don't want this to get too long. Still, we appreciate

how when everyone works together a huge job can get done and things can flow smoothly. You all did a great job!

Most of all I thank my God for the privilege of being one of His beloved, for having a church family to worship with, and for

the awesome price that was paid that I could be a member of The Blood Washed Band. To Him I am most indebted.

With blessings and
gratitude,
Sister Sally Meyers

HE COULD NOT SAY NO

Maurice A. Hess

It was 6:00 a.m. on Nov. 6, 1917. The place was Camp Meade, Md. A company of recently drafted men was being lined up for military drill. Five of the group stepped out of line and stated their conscientious objections to participation in any form of military service. Four were members and the fifth was an adherent of various non-resistant sects from southern Pennsylvania.

That act of stepping out of line started a series of threats, intimidations, and testings of the members of the group by military officers. After all stood firm, they were paraded from place to place and finally were taken to the segregation camp for conscientious objectors for interview by the officer in charge. Four of the group satisfied him of the sincerity of their objections.

When the fifth, the adherent, was interviewed, the officer in charge succeeded in convincing him that he was not really an objector, that he was merely afraid of being killed. That young man with a pacifist background was led back to the military company from which he had come because he could not say No in time of crisis. During the winter and spring he was put through a course of military training, perhaps unwillingly, and in the early summer he was shipped to France with the 9th Division.

In the closing days of the war, just a few days before the armistice, the regiment to which he had been assigned was thrown into the offensive in the Argonne forest. It was reported that 60% of that regiment was casualties. That young man, adherent of a non-resistant sect,

went to his death because he could not say No at a critical moment in his life.

Through the years I have wondered why that young man failed to meet the test in a crisis. Does someone else share in the responsibility for his failure through some negligence in impressing upon his mind the inconsistency between the Christian way of life and military service of any kind? Did he finally prefer to follow the majority and forget the narrow path of his Master? That is the fate of far too many of the human race, and particularly of those who have not been well trained in the bases of true Christianity.

We must remember that many others than war casualties cannot say No. Numerous are the examples of the human tendency to be conformists, to follow the crowd. The children of Israel demanded a golden calf. They wanted a king like all the other nations. In doing so, they had not rejected Samuel; they had rejected the Lord. They received their penalty from the type of king appointed to rule over them.

Individuals, as well as tribes and nations, have proved incapable of saying No, and saying

it effectively in the face of a hostile crowd. At the trial of Jesus, the Roman governor, Pilate, said, "I find no fault in Him," yet he delivered Jesus to the Jews to be crucified. Although the official representative of a powerful government, and with full knowledge of the innocence of the accused, because of fear Pilate could not say No.

The poet Lowell, in "The Present Crisis," well said, "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide in the strife of truth with falsehood for the good or evil side," and later, "They enslave their children's children who make compromise with sin." Not all of life calls for a negative answer. We have many positive choices to make, many positive actions to take. But almost daily we are called upon to take a firm stand against evil tendencies and trends of the times in which we live.

In doing so, we can support our action by the examples of the faithful of all ages. The three Hebrew children did not hesitate to say No in spite of the edict of the king, and they came safely through the fiery furnace. Daniel had no regard for the jealousy inspired decree but prayed toward Jerusalem three times a

day; yet he suffered no hurt in the lion's den because he believed in his God. The apostolic Christians could say No to their Roman persecutors in the face of martyrdom. Even in our own day a small remnant of the faithful can dare to be like Daniel, can dare to stand alone. By grace we can say No when right is more significant to us than our fate. Consequences can have

little influence on the actions of one who is fully prepared to submit himself to God's will. Our further duty is to impress our fellowmen, by precept and by example, of the necessity for acceptance of the divine plan for our redemption.

Selected from the
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the Bible Monitor

WHAT COST REVIVAL?

Ezekiel 9:4, "And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."

The day described in the scripture was to Jerusalem a time of great destruction, despair, and foreboding. There appeared a linen-girded man with an inkhorn, instructed to mark the men "that sigh and cry" for the ever-present abominations which deserved the very judgment that was eminent.

We can become so conditioned to sin in our own day that it fails to concern us as it should. We drink in the worldly spirit of

our surroundings, and the evil colorings of society, until, without noticing, a creeping paralysis spreads over our souls. Our senses are dulled. We fail to recognize our peril.

The great souls of the Bible who moved the arm of God in intercessory prayer were men who acquired the capacity of soul to identify themselves with the need of the men and nations whom they desired to help and lead to salvation.

Fervent prayer from anguished souls is all too scarce these days. When Moses climbed to the crest of Sinai with the burden of a back-slidden, idolatrous nation pulling at the strings of his heart, he did not recite mechanical, beautifully

phrased prayers.

Remove your shoes as you come near, cover your eyes, but listen to the prayer of Moses: "Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin-; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." (Ex. 32:31-32) Here is a great soul absorbed in the agony of intercession: With one hand holding the offended Deity, and the other a sinning nation, Moses refused to remove either hand until God moved into action with a favorable answer!

Daniel prayed thus, "We have sinned, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments." (Dan. 9:5) To pray effectively he, too, identified himself with his subjects of prayer.

We must pray and pray again. We must pray if we are to stem the tide of pride and sin that so grips this nation. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14)

May I submit two more scrip-

tures bearing on this matter of intercessory prayer? "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again till Christ be formed in you." (Gal. 4:19) and, "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." (Rom. 9:2-3) The language here may appear absurd unless, and until, you are familiar with the type of agonizing, prevailing, effectual prayer of which the apostle speaks.

Have you ever experienced the birth pangs of soul travail when you thus are divinely enabled to identify yourself with the sinner and his sin? If so, your lips may emit groans that cannot be uttered in words! The Psalmist said, "I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart." (Ps. 38:8)

The tearless, and nearly prayerless condition of our generation is producing an earth-bound inertia, so engrossed in the immediate, that eternal things are lost in the low-hanging fog of a hell-spawned materialism. We are rich, but cannot control our wealth. It rather controls us. We have talent, but it is unyielded and undedicated.

We have the potential to take a large share of this planet for God but most of our work is neutralized by the greatly materialistic philosophy of our times.

The Keswick Journal had this to say concerning the revival in the Hebrides some years ago, "More people are attending prayer meetings in Lewis today than attended public worship on the Sabbath Day before the outbreak of the revival. Social evils were swept away as by a flood."

"In the communities touched by this gracious movement, you have men and women living for God, family worship in nearly every home, five or six prayer meetings a week in the parish, and ministers building up the young men and women in the faith. Of all the hundreds who turned to Christ in the first gracious wave of the Holy Spirit, until now, only four young men have ceased to attend the prayer meetings."

It is not enough to recognize the ever-present abominations: We must sigh and cry. The problem is all too few of us are concerned enough to sigh and cry. Loadicean lukewarmness, twenty-first century humanism and materialism, like a creeping paralysis, is locking our lips and

chilling our hearts. The sins of the end-times are creeping in among the ranks of Zion.

Jesus warned of three primary hindrances to the gospel taking root and being successful in the thorny ground of our lives, "The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful." (Mark 4:19)

Reader, do you find yourself being gradually conditioned to the sin of these last days? Do these abominations appall you or are you becoming accustomed to the evils of the times? Are we willing to surrender to the weak, sickly, anemic, insipid religiosity of this age, most of which irreverently looks to God as one too good to damn them, and they too good to be damned? This is a day in which church membership is socially acceptable, but so also is sin and sinning church members.

The time has come for us to find a prayer retreat somewhere and do some sober soul searching. Let us pray until we pray: pray until the carnal is lost in the glare of the infinite, and the earthly fades in the presence of the Eternal God. Let us pray

until the earth-bound fogs lift and we can see into Heaven by faith. Let us pray until our souls are submerged into an agonizing travail for the Lost. Let us pray until our perspective of God's program for the Gospel is clear.

Pray! Pray! Pray! Thus we will sigh and cry for the abominations about us, until we bear the mark of the engirdled man with the inkhorn.

From a tract by M. L. Goodman
Revised by Lynn H. Miller

THOUGHTS ON DEMONS

"And in that same hour he (Jesus) cured many of their infirmities and plagues, **and of evil spirits**; and unto many that were blind he gave sight." Luke 7:21

Though others more qualified than we are have written on this subject, after two Bible studies in a week's time concerning this phenomenon we felt led to share some thoughts on the subject of demons.

We were surprised to find that the word "demon" or its plural "demons" is not found in the King James Version of the Bible. It in all likelihood comes from the Greek word "daimon" which is translated as "devil" and "devils" or "evil spirit" and "evil spirits." We did not come across when or where it came into popular usage.

There are different theories as to how demons came into ex-

istence. Probably the most accepted theory is that they are fallen angels. However, some teach that God created them as evil spirits, including Satan himself. Others teach a pre-Adamic creation and teach that the spirits of those who lived at that time are now demons. We recently ran across a theory that these evil spirits occupied the land outside of the Garden of Eden. In a recent Dunkard Brethren Bible study on Sunday morning the lesson concerned a child that was possessed by an evil spirit. It has always been a mystery to us how this could be possible. But a teaching we came across a year or so ago may shed some light on this. It is claimed that some followers of Judaism were connected with the occult. The variant practices of parents can have an effect on their children.

In Acts chapter 16 we read of a damsel who was possessed by a spirit of divination. This evil spirit spoke the truth. This was a mixture of truth and error. The closer to truth a false teaching is, the more dangerous it is.

While it seems to have lost some of its impact a few years ago there was a movement known as a "deliverance ministry" and was very popular. They took demon possession to the extreme that every sickness, problem and personal disaster was named as a demon.

The opposite extreme is also growing in popularity. What the Bible speaks of being possessed of an evil spirit or devil, modern day Bible expositors explain away as either physical or mental illness. We do not know how you can differentiate between the two except through spiritual discernment. Some may be given this special gift.

It would appear that demon possession is more prevalent in countries where actual devil worship is practiced. This only may be due to a failure to recognize it for what it really is.

We do not, personally, believe a person can be demon possessed while the Holy Spirit is living within. While a child of

God cannot be possessed by a demon, such can oppress him. This can take several forms. Some can fall into deep depression. We do not believe all depression is necessarily related to demon activity.

We believe that illegal drug use, alcohol abuse (which is actually a drug), sexual perversion, child abuse (which does not relieve them of their responsibility of doing so) are all demon related activities, though the individuals may or may not be demon possessed. We do not believe that a true child of God will commit suicide, which we believe is demon related.

To cast out a demon one needs to use the name of one of the Trinity. The name of Jesus Christ seems to be the one mostly used. In Acts chapter 19 we read of the result of trying to do so within human power.

There is a lot of mystery connected with the spirit world. We should be wary of making hasty judgments and actions when dealing with evil spirits. We should also be aware that Satan and his demons wish to destroy our spiritual standing with God. They wish to break up homes and bring havoc to family situations.

Let us "put on the whole armor of God" to withstand evil spirits and Satan himself. The closer we align ourselves to the pleasures and wickedness of this world the better chance there is of an evil spirit controlling our thoughts and actions.

Perhaps the church needs

more discernment and teaching in this area without becoming involved with fanaticism. Let us truly give our all to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother James M. Hite

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JOB'S PRAYER

Job 13:23

Harriet Martin

The book of Job is a wonderful treasure house, full of rich things for the child of God, especially so if he is in great trouble.

Job trusted his all to God. He seemed to understand the purpose of God concerning his life, no matter how great his sufferings were, he was sure of one thing — that God was behind it all, and that when it was all over, he would come out refined as pure gold.

Yes Satan tempted Job, to curse God. But in all this Job did not sin or charge God foolishly.

The arrows of the Almighty pierced him, and the terrors of God had set themselves in array against him, only to be re-

jected by Job. So far the temptation lasted.

Job was a very great man, the greatest of all the men of the east. He had ten children, and a very great household. His substance amounted to thousands of head of live stock.

He was a priest, and offered up burnt offering for his children, he believed that God gave it all to him, and he did not make gold his hope, neither did he rejoice in his great wealth, or that it came by his own hand. He worshiped no idols, his heart had not been secretly enticed, he wished no evil on his enemy, he lodged strangers, he had been eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, he had delivered the poor that cried, and helped the father-

less and widows. He had chosen out people's ways for them, he had sat as chief and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners.

How very, very great this servant of God must have been.

But now the scene is different – here he is, everything gone, not even a wife who could comfort him, instead she advises him to curse God and die.

Job knew that he served God and only looked for good. Why did this awful evil come upon him?

He declares that he did not cover his transgressions as Adam did by hiding his iniquity in his bosom.

After all we find that Job did sin, but he kept in God's favor and asked forgiveness for his sins and God knew his repentant heart was sincere.

But here is Job now in great confusion, he believes that he has sinned, and that God has hid His face from him, and he pleads for God to let him know what his transgression is. In chapter 7:26, he says I have sinned, what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of man? Then he goes on saying, Behold God will not cast away a perfect man – yes, Job knew that he was liv-

ing perfect, had perfect faith in God, and though he did commit little sins, he could keep his record clear by repentance, confession, and God's forgiveness.

No God would not cast away a perfect man.

But what was this sin?

He says now, if I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean, yet shalt thou plunge me into the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me. Yes, Job was continually washing his hands from sin. Yet God saw fit to plunge this man into the ditch.

In chapter 13, we find Job desiring to reason with God. How many are my iniquities and sins? "Make me to know my transgressions and my sin."

What a wonderful prayer this was! Many times God puts suffering on us today for that reason, and He knows just what it takes to cause us to cry out to Him, the very thing which He wants us to know, and like Job, in due time God will answer.

Job knew that he was hedged in by God – Satan knew it too.

Job again asks the question, "Why is light given to a man, whose way is hid and whom God hath hedged in?"

His sighings came before he ate, and his roarings were poured out like the waters, yet God did not see fit to reveal his sin, his refining process was not finished; he must have patience and wait. Yes, Job declared that God was watching over "his sin." Some day he would know what it was. If death took him, then he knew that his Redeemer lived and that he would see him in the flesh at the last day.

Job's friends were miserable comforters in his sight, they tried to put their finger on his sin, but Job still cries to God who had sealed up his transgression as it were in a bag, so why counsel with men?

His face was foul with weeping and the shadow of death was on his eye lids, and Job declares to his friends that his prayer is pure before God and that there was no injustice in his hands. Job knew he was perfect, but yet God was refining him for some purpose, more than to prove to Satan that this servant Job would not curse him.

Chapter 14:4. He asks, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?"

He says God shall be his salvation, yes, it all rested upon

God, while Job must wait.

The three friends of Job ceased to answer him, because he was righteous in his own eyes, and their wrath was kindled against him, because he justified himself rather than God.

Also Job's wrath was kindled against his friends because they found no answer, and yet had condemned him.

Then God comes on the scene – Job's cries have been heard and now God is speaking to him out of a whirl wind, saying who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

This great man so honored among men, was humbled by the Lord. True his knowledge must have exceeded that of his fellowman. But here Job saw himself as God saw him.

"Gird up now thy loins, like a man for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me." He beheld the Lord and said, "I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from Thee. Therefore have I uttered things too wonderful for me, which I understood not, which I knew not."

Yes, I have heard of thee by hearing of the ear, "But now mine eye seeth thee. Where-

fore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Yes, God answered his prayer. All of Job's own goodness vanished as his eyes were opened to behold God's righteousness. His salvation and light.

His own righteousness became as filthy rags – there is none good, no not one. Job came through refined as gold.

Selected from the
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the Bible Monitor

ENJOY THE COFFEE

A group of Alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor.

Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups – porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite – telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

Once all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the

cup itself, adds no quality to the coffee in most cases, just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink.

What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but consciously went for the best cups. . .and then began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the coffee, and the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups. . .enjoy your coffee.

Selected by Sister Terry
Scofield

BIBLE STORY**WALKING WITH GOD**

How would you like to live to be 900 years old? We don't think of living that long, do we? People we know very seldom live to be 100. But long, long ago people lived to be very old. Adam lived to be 930 and the oldest man the Bible tells about lived to be 969. His name was Methuselah. The father of Methuselah was called Enoch and he was 65 years old when Methuselah was born. The fifth chapter of Genesis tells of several men who lived to a great age. Enoch didn't live as long as the other men recorded here. He only lived for 365 years.

The Bible says that Enoch walked with God and God took him. In the letter to the Hebrews the apostle Paul says that by faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death and was not found and that he pleased God.

Do you know what it means to walk with God? I think it means to have God for our best friend. If you have a friend that you like very well you want to do things that will please your

friend, don't you? Well that's the way it was with Enoch. He loved God and wanted to be close to Him. It got so that Enoch loved God so much and God loved Enoch that God took him to heaven. And Enoch didn't have to die.

Jesus says, "If you love me, keep my commandments." If we do what Jesus tells us, it shows to Jesus we love Him and are trying to please Him. And even if we do die Jesus has promised that those who love Him will have a home in Heaven. "In my Father's house are many mansions." "I go to prepare a place for you." "And I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Walking with God is worthwhile. It is the best way to live here and it will be much better in heaven. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Brother Rudy Cover

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HALLS OF HELL

There are many journeys I would like to take. I would like to go to the beautiful Hawaiian Islands, or up the snowy Alcan Highway to Alaska, or across the Atlantic for a tour of the Holy Land. But there is one journey I never want to take – and that's a journey through the halls of Hell.

You say, "But even an earthly father (no matter how rude) would not think of sending his children to a place like Hell. Do you mean to charge our loving God with tormenting his children forever in a Hell of fire and brimstone?" And the answer is "No – God does not send **His children** to Hell. Un-saved sinners are not the children of God, but children of the devil (See John 8:44). God's children never go to Hell, but the children of the devil all go there. And God will never **send** anyone to Hell. One who goes there, will go because of his own deliberate choice. God wills that all men be saved, and thus Hell was prepared not for man, but for the devil and his angels (see Matthew 25:41).

The Bible teaches that there **is** a Hell, that Hell is a literal **place** of torment, and that Hell

is **eternal** punishment.

1. THERE IS A HELL

Jesus gave an account of the death of two men, as recorded in Luke 16. The one died, and was carried by the angels into the presence of God. The other opened his eyes in Hell. The rich man (who refused to repent, (Luke 16:30) was once a rich man who lived and walked on earth exactly as we are doing now. But today he is alive and awake and conscious in Hell.

The Bible says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell." (Psalms 9:17). You may not believe that now, but you'll not be in Hell five minutes until you will be convinced that there is a real burning place of punishment. The kindest Man who ever lived, said, "But rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28). It's true that some people with softest smiles will tell us that saint and sinner all alike, will turn up in Heaven at last. They say that both Nero and Paul, Jesus and Herod, Elijah and Jezebel – that each will come out on the same side of the judgment throne. But if it

is reasonable to hold out the hope of Heaven as a reward for serving God, it is just as reasonable to hold out the fear of Hell as a penalty for rejecting God's plan of salvation.

The words uttered by the unsaved in their dying moments, also testify to the existence of a burning Hell. It is not pleasant to see the ungodly die. Charteres on his death-bed said, "I would gladly give one hundred fifty thousand dollars to have it proved there is no hell." The infidel Adams, cried, "I'm lost I'm lost! damned! damned! damned forever!" When Voltaire lay dying, his condition became so frightful that the nurse who stood by, later said, "For all the wealth of Europe I would never want to see another infidel die."

Road repairs were being made on one of the main highways of Pennsylvania. At the place where the construction began, there were two signs. The first said, "Travel at your own risk." The other said, "Road closed beyond the cemetery." That last sign expresses the viewpoint of many today – nothing beyond death. But the Bible teaches that there are **two** roads – the one leads to life everlasting, and the other to eternal

damnation.

2. HELL IS A PLACE OF TORMENT

Hell is more than the torment of a guilty conscience. Hell is not the grave. The rich man (in Luke 16) said, "I am tormented in this flame." He wanted his brothers to repent "lest they also come to this **place** of torment." Repenting would **not** have kept his brothers from the grave, because all men die – but repenting would have kept them from Hell.

Hell is not just some spiritual state. The rich man in Hell knew he was not merely in some hazy, cloudy mixture of nothing, for he wanted his brothers warned lest they come to the **PLACE**. Hell is a real place, and its inhabitants suffer real torment. Consider the agony and imagine the anguish of that poor lost soul to whom a drop of water would have been a taste of heaven.

Even if you are not sure Hell is a place of torment – why needlessly take a chance? A skeptic was teasing his Christian friend. He asked, "George, what would you say if when you die you found there wasn't such a place as Heaven after all?" The

Christian smiled and said, "I would say that I had a fine time getting there anyway." Then the Christian companion shot back with a more difficult question: "Fred, what would **you** say, if when you die, you found there **was** such a place as Hell after all?" That's a sensible question to think about, especially if you have been scoffing at the idea of eternal damnation in Hell.

It took the torments of Hell to turn the rich man's thoughts toward God. Are you going to be like him? Are you going to wait until you're burning in Hell before you get concerned? The tragic fact is that then the harvest will be past, the summer ended, and it will be too late.

3. HELL IS ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

If we could get a vision of the sinner's agony and pain during his first five minutes in Hell, and then add to that miserable condition the word "everlasting," we might have some concept of what it would mean to go to Hell.

The Bible says much about the duration of Hell. Daniel 12:2 says some shall awake to shame and "everlasting con-

tempt." Mark 3:28 contains a warning of Jesus concerning the danger of "eternal damnation." Jesus says (Matthew 25:46), "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal." The expression "forever and ever" is used thirteen times in the Book of Revelation. Nine times it refers to the existence of God. One time it refers to the duration of Heaven. Once it describes the torment of the devil in Hell, and **twice**, exactly the same expression ("forever and ever") refers to the duration of the suffering of the lost in Hell. If the existence of God is forever and ever, then the lost in Hell will be there just as long – for ever and ever.

Hell grows more hellish as eternity marches on. The abyss becomes more dense and fiery. To die would be a happy release, but death will not enter there.

The Bible says, "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15). Is anyone reading this tract whose name is not in the Book of Life? Remember that all of us are sinners (Rom. 3:23), yet God loves us and has a plan for our salva-

tion (John 3:16). Unbelievers are under condemnation (John 3:18), but Jesus Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8), and He is our only hope of salvation (Acts 4:12). Open the door of your heart and receive Him as your Saviour today.

Note: Additional copies of this tract sent free on request. Ask for our sample packet of Bible Helps.

Bible Helps
P.O. Box 391
Hanover, PA 17331

OBITUARY

EDNA FLICK

Sister Edna Marie Flick was born December 30, 1916, in Darke County, Ohio to Orien and Mary Elizabeth (Lavy) Heisey, and passed away on June 20, 2006 at Harborside in Troy Ohio.

She, realizing the need for a Savior, was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church at an early age.

On December 12, 1941 she was united in marriage to Bernard W. Flick. To this union were born three sons, Thomas, John, and James.

She and her husband worked as hired farm hands on several farms in their active years. In December 1973 she bought a small house in Verona, Ohio and they enjoyed living there.

In the spring of 2002 she suffered a severe stroke which left her paralyzed on her left side. It also left her speechless and she could not swallow. Through speech therapy her speech and ability to swallow returned to her. She suffered declining health after her stroke. The nurses at the nursing home said she was a joy to care for.

She received the anointing service on April 29, 2006.

She was released from the discomfort of her affliction on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, at the age of 89 years, 5 months, and 20 days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; half-brother, J. D. Heisey; sister-in-law, Alice Heisey; three daughters-in-law; and one grandchild.

Surviving are one brother, William Heisey; three sons, Thomas and wife Ellen of Eldorado, Ohio, John of Troy, Ohio, and

James of Carthage, Missouri; four grandchildren, Rex and wife Mareda, Edwin and wife Gloria, Jamie and wife Laura Michelle, and Elizabeth and husband Craig Duval; and seven great-grandchildren, Ethan Flick, Kira Flick, Heidi Flick, Caleb Flick, Katie Flick, Dalton Flick, and Faith Duval.

Funeral services were conducted at 10:30 A.M., June 23 in the Dunkard Brethren Church in Englewood, Ohio.

Her body was laid to rest in the Sugar Grove Cemetery near Pleasant Hill, Ohio.

Bro. Paul Stump and Bro. Keith Bailey had services with Bro. Phil Gish at the graveside.

The Family

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

During 2006 General Conference there were several changes made in the personnel of some the Boards that serve the Brotherhood. These changes will affect where donations should be sent. As these Boards have reorganized, your contributions should now be sent to the newly designated Secretaries for their records before being passed on to the Treasurers. These are the affected Boards.

General Mission Board

Send donations to Bro. James Eberly, P.O.Box 504, Terre Hill, PA 17581.

Relief Board

Send donations to Bro. David St. John, 16 687 Road 15, Pioneer, OH 43554.

Publication Board

Continue to send donations to Bro. Ronald Marks, 1813 North 136th Avenue, Hart, MI 49420, although the new Treasurer is Bro. David Aungst.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to have their Revival Meetings starting July 30 through August 6. Bro. Keith Bailey from Englewood, Ohio plans to be with us and bring the messages from God's Holy Word. Pray for Bro. Keith, and these meetings and come and worship with us. Services start at 7:00 P.M. Sunday evenings and 7:30 P.M. weekday evenings.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center, Iowa Congregation plans to have their fall revival meetings, August 13 through 20. Bro. Mark Andrews from Grandview, Missouri is our evangelist. There will be a Lovefeast on Saturday, August 19.

We invite all who can to come worship with us. Please pray for Bro. Mark as he brings the Word and our congregation that the Word may help us grow in Him.

Sister Mary Meyers, Cor.

THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and other remembrances as we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. It was wonderful hearing from so many of you. We are so blessed. May God bless you all richly.

Brother Lawrence and Sister Etta Clayton

THANK YOU

Sister Martha Harman is back in her home again. She gets around very slowly and gets very tired quickly.

Thank you for sending her cards and/or letters while she was regaining her strength in the Astoria Gardens and Rehabilitation Center. She is unable to respond to them all at this time but was so happy that there were those who cared.

Sister Martha, being 80 years of age in August, does appreciate it when others take the time to write or call her by phone. Her days are so LONG!

She solicits your prayers in her "sunset years of life".

Her mailing address is:

18800 N. 100th Road

Industry, IL 61440

Telephone number: 309-254-3258

Sister Shirley Frick

THANK YOU

We want to thank all Brothers and Sisters for all the prayers, cards, visits and phone calls while Roy was in the hospital for surgery and stroke. May God bless you all. God has been so good to us.

Brother Roy and Sister Ada Meyers

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I thank all of you for your wonderful support, your prayers, cards and words of encouragement while I was in the hospital and since I am home recuperating. It means so much to have a church family that cares.

Brother Marty Meyers

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3 – Be Holy Not Aimless in Conduct – I Peter 1:13-25

1. Describe ways that we can attain holiness.
2. How could Peter know that the “strangers” purified their souls?
Are our souls purified, and how do we purify our souls?

Sept. 10 – A Temple of Living Stones – I Peter 2:1-10

1. Why would the head of the corner be a rock of offence and a stone of stumbling?
2. The words of a song say “The building block that was rejected became the cornerstone of a whole new world”. How could the stone be disallowed but become head of the corner?
Also explain cornerstones in the era that this was written.

Sept. 17 – The Conduct of a Pilgrim and Sojourner – I Peter 2:11-20

1. Why did Peter address “strangers and pilgrims? Are there “strangers and pilgrims” today, and do we as a part of the church fit such a category?

2. How would the "free" use liberty as a cloak of maliciousness?

Sept. 24 – In His Steps and Deeper Than Skin Beauty – I Peter 2:21-3:6

1. How do we adorn the hidden man of the heart?
2. Can we be dead to sin and if we are dead to sin why do we face a continual battle against sin?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3 – Foolishness – Psalm 53:1-6; Prov. 14:9; Prov. 28:26;
Luke 11:39-40

1. Describe ways that we today may become foolish.
2. How can we guard against a glossy exterior and rubble within, as Jesus accused the Pharisees?

Sept. 10 – Fishers of Men – Matt. 4:16-25

1. Compare living a Christian life to that of being a fisher of men.

2. Does God request or require all Christians to be fishers of men or is that reserved for a called out group?

Sept. 17 – Thoughtfulness – Josh. 1:8-9; Psalm 4:4-5; Psalm 19:13-14; I Tim. 4:14-15

1. How does thoughtfulness aid in the prevention of sin?
2. How do we remain innocent from the great transgression and what is the great transgression?

Sept. 24 – Enemies – Prov. 24:17-18; Prov. 25:21-22; Matt. 5:43-45; Rom. 12:20

1. I Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord desires that none should perish but that all should come to repentance." Correlate that thought with loving our enemies.
2. Why does God allow the sun to rise and the rain to descend on the unjust?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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SEPTEMBER, 2006

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BLEST BE THE UNITING LOVE

Blest be the dear uniting love,
That will not let us part;
Our bodies may far off remove,
We still are one in heart.

Joined in one spirit to our Head,
Where he appoints we go,
And still in Jesus' footsteps tread,
And show his praise below.

O may we ever walk in him,
And nothing know beside,
Nothing desire, nothing esteem,
But Jesus crucified.

Closer and closer let us cleave
To his beloved embrace,
Expect his fullness to receive,
And grace to answer grace.

-Charles Wesley

TO WHOM DO YOU ANSWER?

The prevailing social and moral philosophy of our world is humanistic. The center of each person's universe is himself. He determines what is right and wrong. There are no absolute values, just what feels right or is convenient to meet the situation. Since man constructs his own moral code, he does not need an otherworldly deity to provide a standard for his living and thinking.

If every man provides his own moral code, he is answerable to no one but himself. He serves only his interests, believing his ultimate goal is to please himself and provide for himself as abundantly as possible. Although there have been many manifestations of humanism throughout history, eventually

God shows Himself and man learns that there is a power higher than himself. God has been patient to allow him to make his own way, only to show him that He does rule from above.

Men will learn, either by the end of this life or in the future, that God does reign. He will learn that the wisdom, which he had constructed and followed, will bring him to ruin, spiritually and physically. Man desires to be free from God's restraints, but God establishes certain demands upon each individual. Each one must ultimately answer to God.

Men find it hard to allow themselves the freedom of believing and obeying God. That dependence and obedience is

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actually freeing rather than constricting. Man's philosophy looks to freeing himself from rules and obligations. His supposed freedom actually brings him into bondage to the philosophies, possessions and desires of the world. He becomes the captive of Satan, who despite fair promises at the beginning, becomes a harsh taskmaster. Satan demands the highest price, a man's eternal soul.

Satan had no qualms about lying to and enticing Eve in the Garden of Eden and he has no qualms about seducing men and women today. Eve believed Satan's lie about the beauty and wisdom of eating the forbidden fruit. Men still believe they can enjoy the forbidden fruit and still have a life of freedom.

It goes against man's streak of independence and self-importance to be answerable to anyone but himself. Satan is willing for a man to believe that he is only answerable to himself, while Satan is actually in control. Thinking that he is in control when he is not, man will do many things that he will answer for later.

Whether it is a pleasant or not, we all must answer to someone else. It depends on the situ-

ation we are in, but surely we all are accountable to another. As children we were answerable to our parents. They were entrusted with the task of raising us, so they demanded of us certain behaviors and activities. We obeyed them.

Spouses are accountable to each other in a marriage. They must regulate their desires and activities so they help and protect each other. Many marriages are wrecked because one or both of the spouses did not feel accountable to the other.

In the workplace the employee is accountable to his employer for his conduct. He must be productive as well as protective of the business's assets and reputation. A business person is accountable to his customers, that he provides the goods or services that are appropriate. Others who provide services must do so with the wellbeing of their clients in mind.

Accountability is especially necessary in the church. Each member is accountable to the others to provide an uplifting worship and fellowship experience. Accountability means a willingness to do those activities and attend those events that build up the membership. The

leadership of the church is accountable to the members and to God for how they perform their duties. The members are accountable to the leadership as they attempt to implement the revealed will of God.

All are accountable to God. He offers a true freedom if we will submit to Him. He asks us to do those things that are beneficial to our Spiritual lives. They may at times be inconvenient or seem burdensome, but they will improve our Spiritual well being.

Being accountable to God

will produce a better outcome than if we allow Satan to deceive us into receiving a nonexistent freedom, which will ultimately prove to be the worst kind of slavery. It is difficult to go against the humanistic wisdom of this world, but doing so will bring a prize worth so much more.

Are you willing to be accountable to God, your parents, your spouse, your employer, your clients and your fellow believers?

M.C.Cook

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH

You have been through all the medical tests and now you are meeting with the doctors for the diagnosis. You know the answer can not be good because you have already spent hours and dollars and you are not getting better. The words are vaguely familiar: sciatica, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, atrial fibrillation, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, or colon cancer, or strangely unfamiliar words like Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, glioblastoma multiforme, or P-NET sarcoma. The prayer of your heart is for some medicine, some surgery,

some procedure that will make this all go away and life can return to normal. We still live in a fallen world. Diseases and tragedies fall on the just and the unjust. Non-smokers still get lung cancer, non-drinkers still get liver cancer, seat-belted, safe drivers are still involved in tragic accidents, and joggers still get coronary artery disease.

There was a time and a place that good health, even abundant health was the norm for God's chosen people. This was not the Garden of Eden (which did indeed have perfect health) but in Egypt when God

birthed the nation of Israel. Before this time God had spoken to individuals, but now He was preparing a multitude and He did it in the womb of Goshen.

Pharaoh viewed the Hebrews from his throne of authority and he saw a perfect workforce. There were young men and old men, all strong, and efficient, and obedient that never missed a day on the line, that worked as steady at the end of the day as at the beginning, that never came to work late, and that never had any of the diseases that plagued the Egyptians. They didn't cough, and whine, and wheeze. The women, too, were strong and willing workers. Their children did not have colic, or milk allergies, or umbilical hernias so while the mothers labored, the strong and healthy pre-teen girls could entertain and care for the contented babies. I'm not sure what the work of the Israelites was before Pharaoh conscripted them to build his treasure cities, but he wanted to wear them down with utterly ridiculous labor so they would have no time to mutiny. For these people had waxed exceedingly mighty and the land was filled with them and that they were more and

mightier than the Egyptians. (Exodus 1:7-9) The Israelites did not have weapons, they did not own land, their total population was not more than the population of the Egyptians, but what they did have was health. They were mighty, they were healthy.

And so Pharaoh set taskmasters over the Hebrew children and they afflicted them and demanded extra ordinary hours and labors from them. They were no doubt bruised and beaten, but their muscles stayed steady, their hearts and lungs held out, their legs and arms and backs stayed strong and they continued to reproduce. And Pharaoh was grieved. As his cities of Pithom and Raamses grew in structure, the Israelites grew in number. Even as the labor rules grew stiffer, the field work harder, the requests angrier, the Israelites waxed mightier and they continued to reproduce.

Pharaoh did not want to eliminate these Israelites; he just wanted to limit them so he could control them for his workforce. His next plan was to have the midwives kill all the newborn baby boys. The Israelite mothers probably worked in the fields

all day, delivered a healthy baby, and then went back to work in full strength. Midwives did not help or hinder the birthing process. The king of Egypt had to devise another plan. He would have his soldiers kill all the baby boys. How many boys were killed over how long a period is not known.

What is known is that almost eighty years later Moses (Exodus 5:5) comes to Egypt to deliver them for God, and they are still mighty in number and still under hard taskmasters. And Moses has the audacity to ask Pharaoh to let his slaves that never sicken, that never quit half-way through the day, that give one hundred per cent all the time, that seem to have marvelous health, leave the country to make a sacrifice. It was not a request to exit the country permanently, but a request for a little vacation, a time to worship their God.

And Pharaoh increased their workload, and the Hebrews were beaten and afflicted, and cried for mercy to Moses, and I think, maybe for the first time, God turned the Egyptians' hearts to hate these people. God was preparing them for the journey out of Egypt and they

would have to turn their backs on the only life they knew. God chose the day (Exodus 12:41) even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. And they went out healthy. Psalm 105:37 says there was not one feeble person among their tribes. There was definitely no disease, but I also believe there were no minor afflictions, no hangnails, no bunions, no cataracts, no knees that needed replaced, no stomach flu, no earaches, no colic, no drug addiction, no emphysema, no congestive heart failure. There were no babies birthed that day. Imagine more than one million healthy people. It had never happened before and it has not happened since.

But there was a time in the New Testament when the very Son of God walked this sinful, disease-ridden earth and performed dozens of healing miracles. Jesus made the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. (Matthew 11:5) These words were Jesus' direct answer to a question from the disciples of John

the Baptist. John was in prison and he sent his followers to ask of Jesus, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" Jesus did not respond by saying, "Yes, I am he." His response was to tell John what He was doing for those in poor health. As John's disciples departed, Jesus turned to the crowd and told them what a great man John was. "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." Jesus also made a very interesting statement (Matthew 11:6) to John's disciples before they returned to John in prison. "And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me."

In other words, "John, I can

and do heal, I raise from the dead, but John, John, I know what is in your near future, and you are going to be beheaded. Don't be offended. I don't promise health and safety for my people while here on earth."

I should and do practice good health habits, I go to the doctor for medicines to heal, I pray for healing when the doctors say that medically nothing can be done, but I will also try not to be offended when healing comes on the other side. So whether on this side of Jordan, or in the Heavenly streets above, God is sovereign, and there is healing in Him for all of His children.

Sister Mary Sue Moss

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

John 15:4, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

The beginning of our faith in Christ is at the throne of grace. Likewise all backsliding has its beginning in forsaking the throne of grace. Have weeds grown up on the path to our prayer closet? Do the knees of our trousers no longer shine?

Do we long for the "old days" when prayer was second nature to us? Have we lost our compassion for the lost souls of this world? All we need to do to achieve this position is to simply stop talking to God.

Many have done this. They no longer walk and talk with God. They may still appear to be a part of the flock, but their heart is cold as stone.

The Christian religion is not

like any other. We serve a Risen Lord. He is alive. Praise His Holy Name. He died for us, and is alive in us. He has conquered death, hell and the grave. He is not bound. He is alive forevermore. We need to trust Him. We need to put our faith in Him. Each and every day of our lives we need to pray to Him. If we do not, then the cares of this life will soon take over and choke out the life of Christ in us.

Those who backslide usually do not do so rapidly at first, but soon they are on the slippery slope toward damnation. So many have once walked the paths of righteousness with us! So many have departed and gone their own, selfish, sinful way! Have we prayed for them? Do we pray every day for them? Satan has at his disposal a million temptations. He never sleeps. He is always ready to wave some new sin under our nose for us to see, touch, smell, and taste.

II Thessalonians 3:3 says, "...the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil." Anyone who puts his or her trust in Christ and continues in obedience with Him will be established. If he then be established, then he will be kept

from evil.

Are we any match for the devil? No, we are not, but Jesus is. We are told in Colossians 1:27, "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." With Christ in us, we are a match for the devil indeed. We (Christ in us) can defeat his wiles, but we need to be constantly in touch with the Master. We cannot lose sight of Him. We cannot turn away from Him. Our life is in His hands.

It is not too soon to pray for next year's revival meetings. It is not too soon to pray for the Lovefeast. Monday is not too soon to start praying for the preacher Sunday morning. We have not because we ask not.

Are we surprised when we see people falling away, leaving the church and falling into deep sin? Have we prayed? Are we surprised when our children become unruly and fall into diverse temptations? Have we prayed? Do we spend hours upon our knees for these things, for the people we love and for our neighbors who are heading toward hell? Prayer is the key that unlocks the heart of mankind. If

we are trying to follow the teachings of scripture without the Teacher abiding within, we will perhaps live a good moral life, but there will be no peace within and no hope for heaven.

There are some among us that do not want to hear this message. They feel that they are doing just fine. They pray enough, they put enough into the offering plate, and they are just conservative enough to pass muster with the elders. But the elders, perceptive as they are, cannot see into their hearts.

This message just may be the Holy Spirit's prompting for some of us to get on our knees before it is too late. Do we have friends outside the ark of safety with no hope for heaven and no peace in their heart?

How does this sound: ETERNITY IN HELL? Would you wish that upon anyone? How about this one: ETERNITY WITHOUT GOD? None of us, if we have the compassion of Christ, want to see anyone go there. But are we willing to do something about it?

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged:

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness;

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

THANK GOD FOR A CONVERTED TERRORIST

"For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain;

but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." I Corinthians 15:9-10

The Apostle Paul wrote these words in humility and thankfulness. His background

did not make him a very eligible individual to become perhaps the greatest man in the Bible next to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He wrote the larger part of the New Testament.

He saw himself as the least of the apostles, not the greatest. Thank God though we may not be as intelligent as other individuals or our abilities may seem to be quite limited in comparison with great leaders and writers of our day and though we may see ourselves as the least of the least, God sees our potential and will use it if we are willing to be used for His Glory.

Thank God for leaders in the Church who do not boast of their great oratory abilities. Thank God for those leaders who recognize that they are not worthy to be in the position where God has placed them. Thank God for those who are willing to council with other leaders to seek their opinion on controversial matters. Thank God for those who are willing to take advice from older Brethren who are sound in the Faith.

Thank God for the grace of God. The grace that makes us what we are in Christ. As hymn writer William R. Newell so well expresses it,

"Mercy there was great, and
grace was free; (Hallelujah!)
Pardon there was multiplied for
me; (Praise God!)
There my burden soul found
liberty, at Calvary!"

Thank God this grace was not bestowed upon us in vain. The Holy Spirit was given to each true believer to give them the power to live the sanctified life. This does not mean that we have sinless perfection. But as a more recent songwriter put it,

"I'm not what I ought to be,
And I'm not what I want to be,
But, Praise God, I'm not what I
used to be."

Thank God He gives us the desire to live out what we believe. It seems like in the past year the thought of faith and works has been the topic of many of our Bible studies and discussions as well as several sermons. Many confuse the reality of the work of the Holy Spirit through us with human effort. Others confuse obedience with human works. Our Sunday morning Bible study included the book of James this year. In James 3:24 he writes, "You see then how that by

works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Martin Luther called the book of James an Epistle of straw. I think it was John Calvin who had a Bible printed that relegated the book of James to an Appendix. I thank God that I am part of a tradition that recognizes the validity of what James taught. Unfortunately, some in the Anabaptist tradition put works ahead of faith and denied that you can have an assurance of your salvation. Brother Jim Eberly did an excellent job in showing how the two work together in several sermons. Brother Keith Snyder also gave a scriptural balance in several sermons on this subject. The Apostle Paul was not in opposition to the teachings of James. Rather he showed the perfect balance. "Yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

We have saved the "best" for last. **Thank God for a converted terrorist!** Terrorists have been the major topic of major news stories for many months now. We heard a former ambassador to Iraq on a "Christian" radio program who made the statement. "We must go over there and kill them before they come over here and kill us."

Without the obvious absurdity of this statement, the fact that terrorists are already here in America, it is hard for us to believe that this was aired by a very popular radio personality. Although they would not admit to such a thing in reality, if they followed their line of thinking, the Apostle Paul would have been either hunted down and killed or pressure would have been put on the Roman government to have him receive capital punishment or at the least life imprisonment for assisting murder.

Now capital punishment is quite a controversial issue. We believe the State has the right to do this according to Romans 13. But we do not believe Christians should use it if given an option. Of course, it is never right when used as it once was as a means of force in religion. But it is obvious that God can take a convicted murderer (or at least as accessory to murder) and make him a born again useful worker in His Kingdom. Yes even an evangelist or local preacher!

Thank God that we may not have been guilty of murder or an accessory to it but we were rebellious and God took an un-

worthy individual and made him
(or her) a child of the King.
Thank God we can call Him Fa-
ther. Thank God He has pre-
pared a home for us in Heaven
if we are faithful to the end.

Thank God we can be a "con-
verted terrorist."

Brother James M. Hite
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THE LIGHT

To walk in the light
How we long to attain it,
Our heart's cry to Jesus
To live and sustain it.

Our children are watching
They see human weakness.
Will they see enough Light,
Will there be enough meekness?

The unsaved are trying
To spot human error
They say none can live Godly,
Make small talk of prayer.

Do we not know the difference
Between darkness and Light?
When walking with Jesus
How brilliant is sight!

We know praying is power
From God's holy throne
We learn from our weakness
How strong is our song!

Our hearts long for Light
For Him to shine through,
Our lives need to count
To bring others in view.

Souls are still searching
Sometimes they don't know
The answer is Jesus
Light from His life flows.

Oh, come to the Light
You won't regret making
Choice becomes clear
It's yours for the taking!

-Sister Linda Cordrey

WHOM SHALL I FEAR?

A Story for Children

Nine year old Billy raced into the kitchen letting the screen door slam behind him. His face was beaded with sweat and his cheeks were as red as the stripes on his shirt. He opened the refrigerator to pour a fresh cold glass of water. His bike lay on its side outside the porch door, just as he'd left it when he jumped off at the end of his excursion. The sun had been hot and the ride was tiring. He had ridden with an older neighbor cousin up to the spring in the

mountains where they loved to go on warm summer days.

"Mom," Billy called, but there was no answer. Then he remembered. Grandma was babysitting and she was in the back yard with Jewel, his sister. His mom and dad were gone to town. They went to the doctor, they said. Both parents had seemed a little more quiet lately and he had caught a glimpse of a tear running down Mom's cheek just this morning as she was fixing breakfast. They had

never said much about the doctor's appointment and Billy wasn't sure what was happening.

Soon the crunch of the gravel on the driveway told him that his parents had returned home. He ran out to greet them. There was a forced smile on his dad's face but it was obvious both parents had been crying. Mom greeted Billy with a hug and a, "How did things go?"

"Fine, I got really tired riding my bike but it was so pretty up there by the stream. I love to go up there. I just wish the hill wasn't so hard to climb. I had to walk my bike part way up," Billy responded.

Dad came and gave him a hug and it was Billy's turn for a question. "How did your doctor's visit go?"

"We'll talk about it tonight when the family is all together for worship, Billy. Let's go finish the chores while Mom gets supper and we'll have some time together this evening as a family."

Grandma had returned home, the cattle were fed, and the lawn was mowed when they sat down to supper that evening. The meal was a little quieter than usual but Billy and Jewel

made chatter and Andrew had his baby noises while Dad and Mom made conscious effort to join in on conversation.

As Dad got the Bible and opened up he read from Hebrews 11, the faith chapter. After reading the entire chapter he came back to verse 23 and re-read, "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child, and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.' Children, what 'commandment' is that talking about?"

Jewel, who was five, said, "Is it talking about Pharaoh's commandment to kill all the baby boys?"

"Yes, Jewel, I believe you are exactly right. And since Andrew is just a little baby we can imagine what that would be like if we would've gotten the order that our baby child would have to be killed. What a terrible thing that would be!"

"But, Daddy, that doesn't make sense. How could his parents not have been afraid if they knew their baby was supposed to be killed? Didn't they love Moses?" Billy asked with a perplexed look on his face.

Daddy pushed his chair

back and told Billy and Jewel to come closer. He put an arm around each child as they stood on either side of him. He looked at the floor as he spoke.

"I believe Moses' parents loved him very, very much. They saw he was a perfect baby and so precious to their hearts. Even though the commandment was harsh and cruel they had a faith and trust in God. They knew that man could take their lives but they knew their God could keep that from happening, or He could give eternal life and they'd be with Him forever. Even though the Pharaoh was powerful, they knew their God was more powerful. He could protect or He could take Home to be with Him eternally. Amram and Jochabed chose to trust in an all-powerful God even though they didn't understand exactly what He would do. They chose to trust and not fear."

Then he looked at first one child and then the other. Slowly the words came from his mouth. "You know we had a doctor's appointment today. I had a lump I was concerned about and I had a test done on it. The doctor told me today the reports came back and there was bad news. I have a very serious kind of cancer.

Further tests revealed it has already spread and the doctor says the best thing we can do is to pray to our God."

He paused and Mother quietly cried as tears dripped off her chin on to her dress. She held baby Andrew close and kissed him on his forehead.

"Children, I don't know what God has in store for me. I don't know if He will heal me or not. But I **do** know the Lord and I want to be as Moses' parents and not 'fear the doctor's report'. If God wants to deliver me, it will be a minor task for Him to perform with all His power. If He chooses to take me Home, then He will provide for you...(his voice broke) and your mother. Like the song says,

'I'll be a winner either way,
If I go or if I stay,
For I still have my Jesus
each passing day.
I'll have healing here below
Or life forever if I go.
Oh, praise the Lord,
I'm a winner either way.'
-Trina Curtis & Laura Lewis

Let's have prayer right now
and put our trust in our God and
not fear what could happen."

+++++

Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

We all have things happen in our lives that can cause us to fear. It may be the doctor's report. It may be a financial deal. It may be a pregnancy that is threatened by problems. It may be a family member off on a dangerous mission in a foreign land.

Perhaps the threat that terrorists bring or the fear of war can trouble us. The decaying morals in our land and ungodly leaders can strike a chord of fear within us. It can be any number of things, but can we show and demonstrate the faith of Amram and Jochabed? What a blessing their example is to us!

Sister Sally Meyers

CHRISTIAN LOVE

Paul R. Myers

The word Love is used many, many times in the Bible, both as a noun and as a verb. It is absolutely essential to a Christian life. Without love, we cannot properly worship God, we can not properly labor as Brethren, and we can not win lost souls to Christ.

First, we have the great example of God. He "so loved us" that He gave His only begotten Son that through Him we might be saved. It required so great a love on the part of God, that God gave His one and only Son. Parents can not even think in terms of that love which God had for the sinner. There is no

term to define the volume or amount of love extended. The word "so" does not give us full comprehension of the vastness of God's love, yet it does give us to understand that He loved us to that point that He offered His only Son as the only means whereby we must be saved.

Second, Christ loved us while we were yet sinners. He loved us to the extent that He laid down His life for us. Man did not cause Him to do this, neither did man take His life. Jesus Himself said, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life that I might take it again." Jno. 10:17.

Also, the following verse of that same chapter says, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down and have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." Here we see the love on both God's and Christ's part, that we who were sinners might have a way whereby we could be freed of sin. Certainly wonderful examples of love.

When we accept Jesus, we accept of the love of God. We become an heir and joint heir with Jesus. We must take immediate steps to absorb that love, manifest it, show it, live it and above all mean it. God is love. We see that motto many times. Since He is love we must be full of love to be in full fellowship with Him. We definitely owe to God our full and deepest love. How do we show this love to Him?

There are many, many ways, but I will relate only a few here. We must love Jesus. If we do not love Him, we can not love God. The Trinity are as one. There is no discord. Therefore, we must love Jesus or we can not love God. We can show our love to Jesus by keeping His commandments, Jno.

14:21. If we are disobedient, certainly we do not love Him. It is necessary that we observe His commandments, that we are faithful to Him and that we live in our lives what He teaches us in His word.

Another way, is our love one for another. If we do not love one another, we do not love Him. How can we love God whom we have not seen if we do not love our brother whom we have seen? There are many ways to extend our love to our brethren and sisters. Here are a few. Bear ye one another's burdens. Pray for one another. Greet one another with an Holy Kiss. Rejoice and weep together. Worship together. Say kind and helpful things to one another. Serve one another. Commune together. There are many more. All are taught in God's word. While we are loving one another by these different acts, we are loving and serving God. If we fail to so work together, we are failing to please God.

If we do not love each other, we do not love God. That is Bible. If we do not serve one another, we can not serve God. That also is Bible. There is something in Christian living that

many people fail to grasp. There should be such closeness between those of like faith that nothing ever could come between one another. That something is Christian love. No church body can possibly please God if there is not that love and unity within it. We should have so great a love that we would be willing to lay down our life for our brother. We need more Christian love today.

Is love to be exercised only to those within the church? No, indeed. We are taught to love our enemies. We are to love our neighbors. We are to love those outside the church. Not love their deeds, but their soul. If we do not love them, we surely will never become interested enough in them to win them to Christ. Christ set that example, in that while we were yet sinners, He died for us. Let us cultivate within our hearts and minds the noble characteristic of love. Once we have a goodly portion of it, we will not be so liable to find fault with the church, with each other and even with God's will. Those we love, we would do anything for.

Let us as Christians love one another so much that we leave no room in our hearts for other things and then we will be able to influence those on the outside that may be out because of the lack of that love.

The world, with all its carnality can not offer love. Not Christian love. The only true love can be in and through Christ. The church is a Christian organization and love must emanate from it because Christ is the head and He is a true example of love. Where there is no love in the church, there is no Light.

Let us love one another more and more, let us love Him more and let us love our church more. Love her to the extent that we will be obedient to her teachings, her government, and her doctrine. Then we will be spreading the love of Christ and through that means, will be in a better position to influence sinners to repent and accept the plan of salvation.

Selected from the
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of the Bible Monitor

REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE

Luke 17 records the teaching of Jesus concerning His coming again. He describes the unreadiness in which many hearts are going to be found. Then suddenly, as Jesus speaks to His disciples about the last days, He says, "Remember Lot's wife."

Lot's wife professed faith in God. Her husband (according to 2 Peter 2:8) was a righteous man. They had moved to the very wicked city of Sodom. Not even ten righteous souls could be found in the City, and God's judgment fell. Just before the fire and brimstone was rained from heaven, the angels took Lot and his wife by the hand and led them out of the city. The angels said to them, "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay...in the plains; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed." As they journeyed toward the mountain, Lot's wife disregarded the command of the angels, and stopped, and turned, and looked toward the doomed cities. And in that moment she became a pillar of salt. There are lessons to be learned from this incident in the Bible account.

1. THE PRIVILEGES SHE ENJOYED

Lot's wife enjoyed many privileges. In the days of Abraham and

Lot, there were no Bibles, no vast number of preachers, no churches, and no missionaries. The knowledge of God was confined to a few favored families, and Lot's wife was related to one of these families. Most of this world's inhabitants were living in darkness and superstition; very few had the privileges that Lot's wife had. She was united in marriage to a man who with all his faults was a righteous person. She had Abraham, the father of the faithful, for her uncle through marriage. Certainly the faith and prayers of these two righteous men were a real blessing to her. It is impossible that she could have lived in company with the family of Abraham without knowing that he was a real servant of God. Religion with Abraham was not a mere formality; it was the ruling principle of his life and the mainspring of all his actions. To live with people like this certainly was a great privilege.

When Abraham built the altar alongside his tent between

Ai and Bethel, Lot's wife was there. When Melchizedek, king of Salem, came forth to meet Abraham, the Bible says she was there. When the angels came to Sodom and warned Lot to flee from the city, she was there. In fact, the angels took her and her husband by the hand and led them out of the City. Think of it – angels from heaven took her by the hand and led her out of the City! What a great privilege!

Yet, what effect did all these privileges have on her heart? In spite of all her opportunities, she lived and died an impenitent and unbelieving woman. She conformed to religion on the outside (she made a profession of religion), but her heart was wrong in the sight of God.

Just like Lot's wife, many of us have lived in the midst of great privileges. It is a great privilege to live in a home where the fear of God is manifested. It is a real privilege to be brought up in a family that has an altar of prayer each morning. It is a great privilege to be able to go to church services and hear the Word of God preached and spend a quiet Sunday afternoon in fellowship with God's people. But remember that great privi-

leges always bring on great responsibilities. Take, for example, the city of Capernaum in the Bible. Capernaum was a place of great privilege. It was at Capernaum that the palsied man was let down through the roof, because so many people had crowded to hear Jesus that there was no room to get him in at the door. No city in Palestine enjoyed so much of our Lord's presence as the city of Capernaum. The people were amazed at what they saw. They were astonished at His miracles. The Bible says they were filled with wonder at His mighty works, but they were not converted in spite of all their privileges. And the people of Capernaum drew the heaviest condemnation from our Lord that He ever pronounced against any city (except Jerusalem). Read Matthew 11:23. The greater our privileges have been, the greater the condemnation if we fail to shoulder the responsibilities that go with them.

2. THE SIN SHE COMMITTED

The account of the sin of Lot's wife is given in just a few words. The Bible says "She looked from behind (her hus-

band) and she became a pillar of salt." We are told no more than this. The substance of her transgression lies in the words, "She looked back." It seems small in our eyes. It seems like a trifling thing to be visited with such a mighty punishment, but there is far more in that backward look than we might first think.

First of all, the account tells of disobedience. The command of the angel was clear and unmistakable. Genesis 19:17 states that the angel explicitly said, "Look not behind thee." This command Lot's wife refused to obey.

God expects obedience, and those who disobey Him draw His wrath like steel draws lightning. It is true that Lot's wife probably did not understand why this command was given, but we are expected to obey God's instruction whether or not we understand why a commandment is given. Never call into question the commandments of Holy Scripture. Always be ready to obey the commandments of God even if you do not understand. Pray like the native in one of our African churches. He said, "Dear Lord, you be the needle, and I will be the thread;

you go first, and I will follow wherever you lead." The sin of Lot's wife tells of disobedience. Let us be careful that we do not take lightly the commands of God's Word.

The sin of Lot's wife also tells of worldliness. It may have been she that urged Lot to move into Sodom in the first place. At any rate, now that they were escaping from the City, it seems that her heart was still back in Sodom (even though physically they had been delivered out of there). Lot's wife was not ready to really give up the world she had left behind her. Her heart was still back in Sodom. Lot's wife was no murderess, no adulteress, and no thief. She professed faith in God (she was delivered from the City), but she looked back. Her heart still longed for the things of the world.

Just so, there are many baptized persons in our churches today who fall victim to the love of the world. There are many who run well for a season, but by and by they give up the race and turn their backs on Christ altogether. What is it that turns them? Do they find the Bible is not true? Does the Lord Jesus fail to keep His Word? Not at

all. The fact is, they become infected with a love for the world like the man of whom Paul spoke: "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." (2 Timothy 4:10)

Many times young people make a good start in life but end up back in the world. In the days of their childhood, they could repeat Scriptures and sing the hymns of the church. They professed to love the Lord Jesus, and they desired a home in Heaven, but sometimes all these things vanish like vapor. The boy becomes a young man and cares only for amusements, sports, and revelling. The girl becomes a young lady and cares for nothing but dress and styles and worldly company. Sometimes older people begin well, but later fall back into the world. They give up habits of private prayer and diligent Bible reading, and gradually the leaven of the world creeps into their lives. May each of us remember Lot's wife – and may God help us to keep in mind that it is a dangerous thing to slip back into the world.

3. THE JUDGMENT GOD INFLICTED

The Scriptures describe the

punishment which God inflicted again in just a few words: "She looked back and became a pillar of salt." God worked a special miracle to bring about His judgment on this disobedient woman. It was a rather strange punishment (she became a pillar of salt). God may have worked this strange miracle in order to awaken us. If Lot's wife would have fallen dead as the result of a heart attack or some other common form of death, we would hardly even take notice. But the fact that she became a pillar of salt stirs our thinking. The same Almighty Hand which had first given her life now took away that life in the twinkling of an eye. To die, at any time, is a solemn thing – but to die suddenly, and to die by the direct intervention of a displeased God is a fearful thing indeed! Yet this was the kind of death Lot's wife experienced.

The Bible is still true when it says, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7) Lin Sullivan tells of a Christian doctor who, many years ago, on his way home from making a call, was traveling through a sparsely settled country when a swiftly

approaching storm forced him to seek refuge in a small country grocery store. Two wicked men under the influence of liquor also sought refuge in the same store. As the lightning flashed and the thunder rolled, these men under the influence of alcohol poured forth a stream of blasphemy, which was finally too much for the storekeeper to permit. He said to the men, "God might strike you dead right here with a stroke of lightning if you don't hush your blasphemous talking." One of those men rolled up his sleeves, went to the door of the building, and cursed and defied God. Mr. Sullivan says that in the same moment a blinding flash of lightning struck into the door with a burning flame of fire. And when the flash was gone, the blasphemous man lay on the floor in a heap. The doctor, after examining his body, said that he doubted that there was a single bone anywhere in the man's body that was more than two inches long. It is true that God is a God of love and mercy, but it is also true that God will punish severely those who defy Him.

Remember Lot's wife. Remember the privileges she enjoyed. She was related to a fam-

ily that feared God. She was led from the city of Sodom by the angels of the Lord. Carefully avoid the sin she committed. She disobeyed the explicit command of God. She failed to make a clean break with the world. She longed to be back in Sodom. And keep in mind the judgment which God inflicted. Without any previous notice, God turned her into a pillar of salt. It was a tragic death.

Let each person who is outside of Christ be reminded that Lot's wife was almost saved, but yet she was lost. The burning city was behind her. Her husband and a couple of her children were at her side, and the place of refuge was not far off. Even though she was almost saved, still she perished. Remember Lot's wife and be sure to become reconciled with God before it is too late.

Note: Additional copies of this tract sent free on request. Ask for our sample packet of Bible Helps.

Bible Helps
P.O. Box 391
Hanover, PA 17331

OBITUARY

HAYES REED

Brother George Hayes Reed, the son of Humphrey M. and Emma Zetta (Hurt) Reed, was born July 29, 1917 in Floyd County, Virginia. He died June 24, 2006 at West Des Moines, Iowa at Hospice Kavanagh House.

He attended Eastern Mennonite College at Harrisonburg, Virginia. He was drafted for service in 1943 and was sent to the Mennonite CPS camp at Luray, Virginia. He served there ten months before being transferred to the State of Maine where he served as a dairy tester for the next two years.

He moved to California in 1947. He and Mary Byfield were married in May 1948. To this union were born two children, Gloria (Haldeman) and Gary Reed. Hayes was a real Estate Broker in Modesto for over fifty years, but his passion was serving Christ and the Church. He enjoyed singing and listening to music, especially Gospel Quartets.

At the age of twenty years Hayes gave his life to Christ. He was baptized by his brother, Elder Roscoe Reed. In 1943 Hayes was installed in the ministry in the Carthage (VA) Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church. He was ordained to the Eldership in 1952 in the Pleasant Home Congregation at Ceres, California. He served as Presiding Elder of that Congregation for many years.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Torreon (NM) Navajo Mission from 1957 until 2003. He was chairman of that board for many of those years. He also served on the General Mission Board, the Publication Board and the Civilian Service Board for many years. During his sixty-three years of serving in the ministry, he held about fifty revival meetings across the Brotherhood. His love for the Lord and the work of the Church were very important to him.

Besides his loving wife, Mary and his children, Gloria (Gale) Haldeman of Dallas Center, Iowa and Gary (Michelle) Reed of Clovis, California, he leaves to mourn his passing, six grandchildren, six great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and three sisters.

Funeral Services were held, June 28, 2006 at the Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church conducted by Elders Fred Pifer and James Meyers. Burial was in Brethren Cemetery, Dallas Center, Iowa.

God saw you getting tired,
And a cure was not to be.
So He put his arms around you
And whispered, "Come with Me."

With tearful eyes we watched you suffer,
And saw you fade away.
Although we loved you dearly –
We could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Hardworking hands at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove –
He only takes the best.

It's lonesome here without you –
We miss you more each day.
Life doesn't seem the same
Since you've gone away.

When days are sad and lonely,
And many things go wrong,
We seem to hear you whisper,
"Cheer up and carry on."

Each time we see your picture,
You seem to smile and say,
"I'm home in God's safe-keeping,
We'll meet again someday!"

A Memorial Service was held at the Pleasant Home Dunkard Brethren Church on July 9, 2006 conducted by Elders Mark Cordrey and Henry Walker.

OUR BROTHER HAYES

"Oh, I feel like traveling on....."
Was a favorite song of Hayes,
He knew this world of woe,
Was not his resting place.

He was always sweet and kind
His handshake firm and sure,
His words were always positive
Encouragement always pure.

He can't come to us again
But we can go to him.....
He spoke a lot of Heaven
He knew his final home.

How happy Hayes must be today
With the Lord and loved ones too,
Of all the glories preached
He's there, beyond the blue!

How many ones did he witness to?
How many souls were saved?
Because of acts and words of truth,
His life unselfish gave.

Remember the theme of his life...
To live for Jesus and strive
In the vineyard of love and truth
Eternal life being the prize.

How many messages ring in our ears
From our dear Brother Hayes?
May we do well to remember his zeal
Life's end, starts Heaven's days!

-Sister Linda Cordrey

NEWS ITEMS

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Brother Paul Stump from the Englewood, Ohio congregation will be holding revival meetings at the Bethel, Pennsylvania congregation starting September 17 through September 24. May we remember Brother Paul as he studies to bring forth these messages that we may be revived and the lost may find salvation. We invite all to come and worship with us.

Sister Darlene Longenecker, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their revivals with Bro. Ray Stuber, from the Shrewsbury Congregation, starting September 24 through October 1. Sunday morning services to begin at 9:30, Sunday evening at 6:00, and weeknights at 7:30. Please remember these services in prayer, and all are cordially invited to come and worship with us.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Walnut Grove Congregation from Taneytown, Maryland would like to invite you to join us for our revival meetings. Bro. Robert Lehigh from the Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania Congregation will be bringing us the Word of God starting September 27, 2006 and ending with out Lovefeast on October 1, 2006.

Yes, I did say our Lovefeast! After so many years of not having a Lovefeast, we are so thankful that we once again can enjoy this blessing. Due to the members working together, we were able to clean up our basement so that we can use it.

Services each evening will be at 7:30 P.M. Sunday morning we will have Sunday School at 9:30 followed by the closing sermon of the revivals. Examination service will be at 2:00 P.M.

Lovefeast will follow in the evening.

If you are unable to join us for these services, please pray that God will prepare our hearts to receive the Lord's messages.

Sister Sarah Musselman, Cor.

JUNIPER HILLS, NEW MEXICO

The Juniper Hills Congregation plans to have a Lovefeast, September 30. Examination services will begin at 2:00 on Saturday afternoon with the Lovefeast service to follow at 6:00. All are welcome to come and join us for this special service. It would be helpful for those coming from a distance to let us know.

Sister Tena Priest, Cor.

MOHLER'S, MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Mohler's Congregation plans to hold revival meetings the first week of October 2006. Services will be at 7:30 each evening and Sunday morning at 9:30. Brother Paul Hartz will be our evangelist. We covet your prayers and attendance during these meetings and pray that God will be glorified and souls will be saved.

Sister Ruth N. Miller, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation will be having Communion/Harvest Meeting the weekend of October 13 through 15. Services will begin Friday evening with Communion Saturday at 7:00 P.M. There will be a potluck lunch Sunday and the closing will be at 2:00 P.M.

Bro. Alan Meyers of Dallas Center, Iowa will be the speaker for the weekend. Please pray for these meetings.

Sister Martha Herr, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation plans to hold revival meetings, Sunday, October 22 through Sunday, October 29, with evening services beginning at 7:30 P.M. Bro. Merle Sweitzer from the Shrewsbury Congregation will be ministering to us. We will hold services all day Saturday, October 28, prior to Lovefeast that evening. We invite all who can to come and fellowship with us as we worship Him.

Sister Ruth Clark, Cor.

2007 GENERAL CONFERENCE

The 2007 General Conference will be held, Lord Willing, May 26 – 30, 2007 at Jenness Park Christian Camp located about 26 miles northeast of Sonora, California in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. More information concerning the grounds can be found online at www.jennesspark.com. More details concerning the 2007 General Conference will be published later.

The Locating Committee

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 2006

Oct. 1 – A Blessing for a Curse and Always Prepared – I Peter 3:7-17

1. Discuss the relationship of wives and husbands and the wife as the weaker vessel.
2. How do we give an answer of the hope that is in us?

Oct. 8 – Armed to Suffer – I Peter 3:18-4:6

1. Discuss the thought of having the mind of Christ.
2. Discuss how in living a life unlike the world we witness to them.

Oct. 15 – In Spite of Suffering Love to the End – I Peter 4:7-14

1. What is “the end of all things”?

2. Discuss the idea of rejoicing in suffering.

Oct. 22 – Shepherding Like the Chief Shepherd – I Peter 4:15-5:4

1. Glorifying God is the chief purpose of the Christian. How is this accomplished through suffering?
2. How can a leader be a leader and still be part of the flock?

Oct. 29 – Vigilance Clothed in Humility Keeps the Lion at Bay – I Peter 5:5-14

1. Explain humility as a Christian virtue.
2. Explain how we are established in the Christian faith.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 2006

Oct. 1 – Christian Virtues – II Peter 1:3-11

1. What is a Christian virtue?
2. Explain how faith grows.

Oct. 8 – Disciples – Matt. 16:24-28, Luke 14:26-33, John 8:31-32, John 15:8

1. What must a person do in order to become a disciple of Jesus Christ?
2. What is a disciple of Christ?

Oct. 15 – Covenants – Gen. 9:16, Jer. 31:31-34, II Sam. 23:3-5, Isa. 24:5, Heb. 13:20-21

1. What is a covenant?
2. Compare the old covenant with the new.

Oct. 22 – Cultivate Gifts – Matt. 25:15-19, Rom. 12:6-12, I Cor. 4:5-9, John 10:28, Rev. 2:10-11

1. How do we determine what our gifts are?
2. What is the purpose of the gifts we receive?

Oct. 29 – The Comforter – John 14:26, John 15:25-27, John 16:1-14

1. What are two purposes of the Comforter?
2. How can we know that we possess the Comforter?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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OCTOBER, 2006

NO. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GREAT GOD

Great God, indulge my humble claim,
Thou art my hope, my joy, my rest;
The glories that compose thy name
Stand all engaged to make me blest.

Thou great and good, thou just and wise,
Thou art my Father and my God!
And I am thine by sacred ties,
Thy son, thy servant, bought with blood.

With ready feet I love t'appear
Among thy saints, and seek thy face.
Oft have I seen thy glory there,
And felt the pow'r of sov'reign grace.

I'll lift my hands, I'll raise my voice,
While I have breath to pray or praise,
This work shall make my heart rejoice,
Throughout the remnant of my days.

-Isaac Watts

A SINGING CHURCH

One of the blessings of Christianity is the joy felt by those who enjoy its benefits. Christians have received the greatest blessing ever given to people. They have been saved from their sins and redeemed from the clutches of Satan. What more could any people want than this freedom? Since all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, all are in need of this blessing.

God in His wisdom prepared through His Son the way of escape for all. Unfortunately the vast majority do not avail themselves of this blessing. They have varying reasons why they do not yield themselves to God. The very act of yielding is too great a burden for some. Some have a misinformed view of what Christianity really is. Others see

no real need to do anything different than what they are currently doing. Many consider themselves well able to handle their own situation without any help from God. It is sad to see intelligent, moral, and helpful people put themselves at risk of suffering eternally for this unwise decision. There is no need for the suffering that is in store for them, but they have ignored or refused to accept God's offer.

While the vast majority may never make the decision to accept God's offer, others have had the wisdom to make the good choice. Those making the good choice have much to be joyful about. They realize the price that has been paid for their eternal well being. They know God gave the best and only offering that

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would be effective in overcoming the power of sin, Satan and self. As those who have received a precious gift they want to express themselves in word and deed.

One form of expression of their joy and gratitude is singing. Many religious systems are devoid of joy and gratitude, but are more about the glory awaiting those who will do certain deeds, often reprehensible deeds, in order to gain the favor of their god. Just as the prophets of Baal carried on with noise, cuttings and other activities to gain the notice and favor of their god, so even today adherents of these religions do various deeds to win favor. They want to impress those around them and their god with their sincerity and devotion. Instead, a Christian can speak of the Grace and the Mercy displayed by God who paid a price none were willing or able to pay.

A people who have received such great favor should be a happy people. They should desire to express their joy in a form that can inspire and uplift others. The Psalmist spoke of making a joyful noise unto the Lord. The Apostle Paul speaks of singing from the heart. There are many forms of music but none are as

personal and uplifting as singing. The psalms, hymns and spiritual songs that belong to the Church express the joy and gratitude of a redeemed people.

Music can be rendered in various styles and through various methods. Undoubtedly instrumental music involves great talent and can be very inspirational. Despite its beauty and ability to emotionally move people, it does not belong in the church's worship services. Music performed by groups and individuals show a great deal of talent and dedication. The music can be moving, but it is not appropriate in the church's worship service. There is an appropriate time and place for these types of worship music. That time and place is not in the regular worship service of the church.

God has designed the church as a body of individuals who together produce the music that praises God and inspires others. This music comes from within the physical body of each believer. Not all believers have the ability to sing well but God's desire is that each would take part in the making of a joyful noise. The church is a body where each member performs his part for the good of the whole

body. That includes the singing. It is part of the worship of the church.

Music is an enjoyable and significant part of the Christian experience. It is meant to be uplifting for those who participate as well as those who hear. It is designed to bring glory and honor to God. Christians have something to sing about. The lost and dying around us may try to console themselves with their version of music, but that music can never lift up those who have an unpleasant future. Christians need to be careful how we use the music of joy and gratitude so it remains a joyful noise and a

witness to those who know only the weird and damaging music and lyrics that are offered to them by Satan.

The music of the church is not designed to be entertaining but worshipful, inspiring and uplifting. As believers we can make the joyful noise that may not be perfect in our ears but will be perfect worship in the ear of God.

What are you singing? Is it the music that God wishes for you to sing, both in a worship service and in other settings? Are you making a joyful noise to the Lord?

M.C.Cook

AFTER THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."

I was working on memorizing a portion of Romans chapter eight when verse one caused me to stop and think. I didn't want to just memorize the Scripture; I wanted to know what it meant as well. But I was confused by verse one saying that there was no condemnation to them, which were in Christ who walked after

the Spirit. It seemed to say it is possible to be "in Christ" but walking after the flesh and therefore condemned. I thought for a while about this possibility. Could I be "in Christ" (a member of the Church) yet be walking after the flesh? It seemed to me that when I gave my heart to the Lord and joined the Church that I had ceased to walk after the flesh. But this verse was making me think that it was possible to have received Christ as Savior, been baptized, and continue

to walk after the flesh.

I thought back to my life in Christ before I married. I had surrendered to the teachings of Scripture concerning modest dress; having made radical changes to the way I dressed after I learned about modesty. I made sure I paid my bills on time and kept things neat, tried to be courteous to other people and kind to strangers. I even went out of my way to help others at times, when I knew that somebody needed me. These were all things that I was learning to do as one who was "in Christ". Certain behaviors fell into the "in Christ" category and I knew it was what I should be doing. After I married I continued to go through the "in Christ" motions; understanding what my role as a wife was and learning more all the time. But as I look back on those years now, I see that my life was not centered on Christ in those days, it was centered on **me**.

I focused my energies on making sure I fit into the "in Christ" category by how I lived. At least the things that other people knew and saw. When I came into a difficult phase of marriage early on, I continued to focus on me. This time it was

my emotional pain that became the center of my attention. The Spirit was calling me to forgive some people for some hard things that happened to me as a child. But I was refusing to walk after the Spirit, I continued to hold on to my pain and justify current struggles because of what I had lived through. I was walking in the flesh because I was more concerned with **me** than I was with following Christ. God was trying to help me be a better wife to my husband and bring me to an understanding of how my unforgiving heart was negatively affecting my husband. I was not listening to the Spirit or I would have understood that for the good of my marriage, my walk, and my husband's walk with the Lord, I needed to follow the Spirit.

As time went on, parenting and home schooling were added to my "to do" list. I now had more than I could manage in a given week. I learned to pray more so that the Spirit could better control me. It gave me more patience as a mother and home educator, but I still walked after the flesh concerning my emotional pain. Our marriage was struggling, but nobody around us knew it. How could nobody

know? Because I continued to do all the things that fell into the "in Christ" category! I was kind to my husband, made him the center of our daily schedule and cooked his favorite meals. We attended church regularly. The children and I did our daily duties as we should and held some devotional times together. Everything seemed to be just fine, unless I was reminded about this one issue that the Spirit had been convicting me about. In an attempt to relieve the guilt of not forgiving, I'd set out to be an even better Christian. I'd do a few more "nice" things for people and make sure my children excelled in their schoolwork and knowledge of the Lord. These were all things that people noticed and since everything seemed to be "right" nobody dared ask me the most important question, "Deena, how is your relationship with the Lord?"

Had I been forced to answer that question (honestly) in those days, I'd have said, "Well, it is fine as long as He does not ask me to forgive some people who hurt me badly when I was a child. When God reminds me that I have not forgiven, I push Him out the window and go and do something I'm capable of doing, like

cook a nice dinner or teach a math lesson."

So, was I "in Christ" but walking after the flesh? I think I was in those days. But the bigger question is one of the present day. Am I "in Christ" and walking after the flesh **now**? Or am I walking after the Spirit? When the Spirit prompts me to deal with something difficult, am I claiming the promise of Scripture found in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."? I should have claimed it many years ago and saved our marriage years of difficulty. I can only wonder what impact those years had on my children. I hand all the uncertainty to God and promise to walk in the Spirit to avoid as many spiritual disasters as possible. I see how God, through the leading of His Spirit, has healed me of some deep wounds and mistakes of my parents and I have faith that He will do the same for my children; so long as they learn to be "in Christ" AND walking "after the spirit".

The most amazing part of this, and the thing, which proves to me that I have been changed by Christ, is that after I did obey the Spirit and forgave, I began to have a new and deeper level

of compassion for other people. Also, I no longer dress modestly because God tells me I should. I do it because I feel compelled to be viewed as a believer in Christ. I do it not simply because I am a believer in His teachings, but a believer in His power to work miracles; not the least of which He has worked in my heart and marriage. I no longer serve others because I know it's the "right" thing to do. I serve because I want the love of Christ to flow through me to someone else, that they would feel the healing waters and desire to pass them on to yet another person. I no longer keep things as neat and organized because I want an appearance of order, but because I actually have more time to serve and to learn if I can find the things I own when I need them!! I no longer serve my husband because God tells me this is what a good wife does, I serve him because I love this child of God, imperfect as he is. And besides, he loves me, imperfect as I am! He was undoubtedly puzzled by my emotional struggles of years past, but God has proved to be faithful to continue to call people to walk after the Spirit and put a firm foundation under shaky mar-

riages.

I am convinced that it is possible to be "in Christ" but walking after the flesh. I'm also convinced that the Spirit will continue to pull me back to the straight and narrow path each time Satan works to pull me onto the broad one. I've learned to ask God for the courage to approach my husband and ask the most difficult question of all, "Is there anything about my life that you think the Lord is wanting to change right now?" I have to be strong enough to handle his honest answers. He has to know that my question is sincere in order to answer in truth. Nobody knows as much about our spiritual walk as our spouses do. I believe one of the God-given responsibilities for married persons is to be involved, spiritually, with each other. Not necessarily pointing out things in the other person's life, but willing to have our spouse point out things in our lives which need the Lord's attention. For the unmarried, a close friend can serve well in this area. God help us to be willing recipients of honest answers to our questions.

Please pray that I will walk after the Spirit, not after the flesh, and I will do the same for you.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the

Spirit." Romans 8:1

In Christian love,
Sister Deena Andrews

GROWTH AND PROGRESS

Growth and progress are two fashionable words that are the very essence for the driving force inside many men today. We like to see things succeed and mature into a healthy thriving entity. This is a quality that has been given to us by God. It is important that this energy gets channeled into the right efforts. When we allow God to direct that inherent drive He can use it to magnify and strengthen His Kingdom here below.

My thoughts were led to the potential for growth in the Kingdom as I observed the many youth who diligently attended the services at youth retreat here in Makutano last week. One hundred forty seven youth attended these meetings which began Wednesday and ended on Saturday. Morning devotions started at 6:30 A.M. and evening devotions were usually not over before 9:00 P.M. In addition to the morning and evening devotions there were four sessions

per day each being minimally one and a half-hours in duration. There was time for three meals and only a small window of opportunity for activities such as volleyball. I was favorably impressed that I did not hear even one complaint about the rigorous schedule and the minimal time for leisure activities. Instead they seemed eager to begin the next session and many had their Bibles open on their laps as well as a notebook in which they were jotting down notes. As I contemplated this group of young men and women that were intently listening and actively participating in the studies I grew increasingly curious just what the Lord has in store for these youth in the future years.

We are told in Matthew 12:31-32 that the Kingdom of Heaven can grow from a very tiny seed into a great tree. This begs the question, How does this happen? Paul tells us in I Corinthians 3:6 that he planted,

Apollos watered but it was God who gave the increase. God's ways are far above ours and He works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform therefore we cannot fully comprehend everything that He does. We can however study His Word and find ways that we can contribute to this increase.

First let us consider what Jesus is referring to when He speaks about the Kingdom of Heaven. This phrase can cause us to envision a golden city among the clouds where we will abide eternally after our life here below is over. It also leads our thoughts to the collective group of Jesus' genuine followers who are living on this earth right now. But it approaches even closer home than this. Luke 17:21 tells us that the Kingdom of God is within us. This makes growth in the Kingdom a very personal issue.

We find in Psalm 92:12, "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." When we do the things, which are in accordance with and in obedience to God's Word and Will, we have been promised that we will grow

strong. Matthew 7:21-27 is clear in teaching us that hearing and professing what is true and right is not enough to sustain growth or yield a good harvest. Rather it is essential that we apply those things we heard to our every day life. Faith without works is dead (James 2:17). In I Thessalonians 1:3 Paul was commending the church for their work of faith. There is a work for each one of us to do if we hope to see progress towards everlasting growth.

The youth in Kenya must now take the things they learned and apply them to their lives in order to make spiritual progress in their own hearts. If they do this, then the collective Kingdom of God on this earth will also increase; likewise with you and me. We must ask the Lord to work in our lives and develop us personally so that we might grow and increase in Spirit and in Truth. We should ask the Lord what it is that He wants us to contribute in order to progress in the growth of His Kingdom in all parts of this world.

Brother Vernon Martin
African Mission

KENYA YOUTH MEETING

Greetings from Kenya,

Thank you all for your Prayers and Support of the work here. We can not thank you personally but God will bless you.

Those of you who receive the regular e-mail letters I am sure you heard we held a youth meeting here August 8 through 12. Thank you for your prayers. It went well. We had 150 youth plus one or two pastors or leaders from each church. Two outside churches joined us, too. It was a good time of challenging messages and fellowship. The youth arrived here Wednesday. Jonathan went and picked up the Chesubet youth in the morning. The last load of youth arrived by 6 P.M. from Chepkorniswa.

The cooks, Abel, Thomas and Jackson served them supper of ugali and cabbage. The cooks did a good job. There was only one meal that was late.

The youth all stayed here on the compound except for a couple local ones. The girls stayed up at Vernon's house in the upstairs, the guys slept in the guesthouse and down at Hosea's.

Each morning they were to be in church at 6:30 A.M. for morning worship. Breakfast of

bread and tea was served at 7:30 A.M. There were four sessions of teaching each day ranging from an hour to an hour and a half. Some of the teachers found it hard to keep time. Lunch was served at 1:00 P.M. and supper at 7:30 P.M. Evening devotions after supper then chai (tea) time to finish up the evening. Everyone was usually in his or her places of sleeping by 11:00.

The sessions went very well. Our theme was Making Choices. Here are a few of our topics: Power of Choice, Freedom of Choice, Growing by Choice, and Purity by Choice. The speakers were Gilbert, Hosea, Joseph, Vernon and James. James and Philip did most of the interpreting.

We had a fair amount of rain Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Their spirits did not seem to be dampened by it. It did limit the volleyball games. Some of them did not mind playing in the mud a little.

Saturday there was just one session in the morning then they were fed lunch. The Chesubet group left early afternoon. The rest of the youth helped out well by washing dishes, cleaning,

and getting everything back in order. The last group, Chepkor-niswo, left before 5:00 P.M. The compound seems so empty now.

It was good to have them all here. We looked forward to it for

so long and now it is past. We pray the things they heard will stay with them.

God bless,
Sister Nadine Marks

KENYA YOUTH CONFERENCE 2006

August 9 – 12

Greetings from Kenya in Jesus' name!

First of all, I want to thank God for allowing me to be here in Kenya. He has worked things out that looked impossible to me. Our God is a God of working the "impossibles", praise be to His Name! I also want to thank each of you who have prayed for me and the mission here in Kenya. I would not have been able to stay here this long without your prayers. I have found out that mission life is not quite how I imagined it to be, in some ways. I have also had a lot of blessed times. God has used the hard times to draw me closer to Him. It is my desire that I would be a pliable vessel for HIS use.

This last week was a week of learning more about God and about making choices. The theme of the conference was "Making Choices". Youth is a time of many choices. I will try

to give you an overview of each session.

The first session was taught by Bro. James Musumba. His topic was "Power of Personal Choice". We need the knowledge of the Word of God to be able to make a good choice. We need to know the truth. When we know the truth, it will help us make a wise choice. When you hear the Word of God, you need to choose to believe that it is true. We must be influenced by God, not by the multitude around us. We need to always be on God's side, even though we might be rejected. We are never alone, God is with us and He will bless us for doing what HE wants us to do.

Bro. Vernon Martin taught the second session. His topic was "Freedom of Choice". We have many freedoms in life. Freedom of Choice is a major area in our lives. We divided into

eight different groups and discussed three questions: Where did freedom of choice originate? Does God approve of freedom of choice? What is the evidence of the answers to those questions? That was a good way to help the youth interact and a nice variation for class time.

Bro. Gilbert Amaswache taught the session on "Choice and Effect". For each choice we make, there will be an effect or consequence. We need to Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit if we are going to grow in our faith. Always seek the ways of God in our life and it will lead to prosperity. If you choose to hear the Word of God, God will bless us.

The fourth session was taught by Bro. Joseph Okemo. "Guidelines to Correct Choices" was his topic. You first need to commit your life to Jesus then He will guide us to make right choices. Satan will try very hard to hinder the good choices we make, but we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in the right way. The more we are reading and studying the Word of God, the easier it will be to make the right choice. Let the Word of God be a lamp and light to your path in life.

The fifth session, "Standing Firm in Choices", was taught by Bro. Gilbert Amaswache. God wants us to remain firm in the right choices we make. Just like Daniel purposed in his heart, we need to purpose in our hearts to make the right choices and stand firm. Satan will try to get us down, but God wants us to remain firm in Him. In Jesus we are more than conquerors and when we are in Jesus, nothing can overtake us.

"Growing by Choice" was the topic of the sixth session. Bro. Vernon Martin was the teacher. We start growing when we realize the power of God. God has the power and ability to do what He wants with us. By choosing to obey God and to read His Word, we will grow. We will grow when we step out of our comfort zone into the effective zone. When we are in the effective zone we will feel a little in danger and will have to deal with things we are not comfortable dealing with, but Jesus will use those times for us to become effective for HIM. We can hear the Word of God, but if we do not try to apply it to our lives, it will be a failure. We need to hear and believe one hundred percent of the Word of God and try our best

to apply it to our lives. Even if it seems like we only can apply a small portion, we can ask Jesus to help us and He can multiply it beyond what we can imagine.

Bro. James Musumba taught, "Challenges to Choices", in the seventh session. There are quite a few things that can challenge our choices; Authorities, Desires, and Curses are three of them. Fear can be a major thing in our lives. When we have fear, it will be hard to make a good choice. We need to be confident in Jesus.

The eighth session, Bro. Hosea Ambundo taught the boys, Sis. Florence Ambundo and Sis. Jennifer Martin taught us girls. The topic was "Purity by Choice". We need to choose to remain pure. When we have bad thoughts, we need to replace them with pure and good thoughts from God's Word. Seek the face of the Lord for guidance for each choice that is set before us.

Bro. Hosea Ambundo taught the final session, "Prospering in Choices". God has given each of us a special choice. God's

Word is not far away from us that it is impossible for us to get to. Deuteronomy 30:14. We were taught the Word of God and now God has given us the special choice if we will do what we have been taught and grow by it. We can either choose life and blessings or we can choose death and curses. He then gave an invitation to those who wanted to choose life and a better relationship with Jesus.

The whole conference was a spiritual blessing to me. I really enjoyed the singing, too. With about one hundred fifty youth, plus the leaders, it was a full church and a blessing to have each one there. The "theme" verse seemed to be Deuteronomy 30:19, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose LIFE, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Seeking to choose life in
Jesus each day,
Sister Lucy Kasza

SEASONS

Fall is coming, school's in session
Brand new season, brand new books
A nip in the air, the freshness of learning
Leaves turning colors, plants changing looks.

Good children of ours, go back to their desks
Preparing for life, equipping to win...
Yet knowing their days won't all be the best
Instilling foundations of faith deep within.

Each season has beauty, youth is like Spring
Raising a family's like warm Summer rain
When they are adults, Fall harvest to reap
Grandchildren to love, how sweet that refrain!

We all have seasons of life to go through
Our teacher is Jesus, the lessons are true
Learning to grow, and growing to learn
Building on values, His mercy in view.

So, go through the seasons that God has for you
Some warm and sunny, some bleak and cold
File away memories that are precious to keep
Learn from mistakes; be humbled, yet bold.

Seasons still come, and seasons still go
But Jesus will come, no more winter's cold
Forever the Spring-time, light from the Son
That will be glory, a season of Gold!

Sister Linda Cordrey

MAKING AN IDOL OF "SPIRITUAL THINGS"

"He (king of Judah) removed the high places, and break the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Ne-

hush-tan." II Kings 18:4

In Numbers 21 God commanded Moses to make a fiery serpent and to put it on a pole to heal the bites of the serpents God sent among the people because of their sin. Now we find that the children of Israel made it into an idol. Why God chose an image especially one of a serpent we are not told except it represented their present problem. But it was good to start with. In fact, Jesus used it as an example of Him on the cross.

Today many spiritual things have become idols. The first that comes to mind is the cross itself. We have been criticized for not having a cross in front of our church (or anywhere else in or on our buildings). But, in reality, the cross has become an object of worship in place of Jesus Christ who died on the cross. In many churches a priest or pastor will bow to the cross before or during worship. The cross has become a popular piece of jewelry worn even by those who professionally sing both secular and sacred music. We wonder how popular it would be for display if it truly was "the blood stained old rugged cross." Few are willing to "take up their cross" and follow Christ.

The Bible teaches the need of church leaders. But, at least in a sense, many church leaders have become idols. While the word "pastor" is used at least once in the King James Bible we do not use it probably because it is associated with a paid ministry. In many churches the senior pastor is seen as the final authority. Even in churches where there is no paid ministry or a pastor, elders (or bishops) or ministers are seen as infallible when they are behind the pulpit (or table). This is not to infer that we must not have the scriptural respect for those in authority.

Bible taught doctrines could become idols. We believe as the old Brethren did in baptism for the remission for sin. We also believe the Bible teaches trine immersion baptism. But when the water of baptism replaces the blood of Jesus Christ it has become an idol. When we judge other methods of baptism as to the salvation of an individual trine immersion baptism has become an idol.

We believe the vast majority of churches are in error when teaching that feet washing was only for the time of Christ when men and women wore only sandals. But when we equate feet

washing with salvation we have made it an idol. While feet washing can be a time of spiritual renewal we do not agree with the thought that it washes away sins we committed and did not repent of.

Dress is becoming an increasing controversial issue. While the Bible definitely demands modest dress there are many ways of translating this phrase into practical every day living. It is our conviction that most are using manmade ideals rather than Spirit leading. But dress can also become an idol. When a certain mode of dress becomes your means of entering Heaven it has lost its true validity.

There are many other manmade church rules that can become idols. It seems as if most are at one extreme or the other. Some would eliminate all church rules and regulations (bringing the Bible into everyday living) while others split hairs over even those rules and regulations being observed.

Closely related to this is defining what is worldly and what is not. This becomes increasingly difficult as time goes by. While we must live separate from the world it can become an idol

to define the term worldly by our own standards. There is nothing wrong with personal convictions. But it is wrong to judge others by our personal convictions (as to their relationship with the Lord). Is it worldly to drive a motorized vehicle? Is it worldly to have electricity in your home? Is it worldly to have a telephone? What about a cell phone? The list could go on almost endlessly.

Some feel it is wrong to meet in a meetinghouse rather than in a home. We obviously do not believe this. But a meetinghouse can become an idol. We should be reverent when in a meetinghouse. We do not believe a meetinghouse should be a place of entertainment, neither in manner of worship nor a place to play sports. But if the only time you worship God is when you are attending a meetinghouse it has become an idol.

We can even make something as holy as God an idol. Not that we put Him too highly in our life and practices but allowing Him to be merely the "head of a religion."

Brother James M. Hite
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RIDING THE FENCE?

I stood looking over the peaceful meadow. The trees were covered with green. The grass in the meadow was a lush green. The thunderstorm from the night before had refreshed the earth. Everything was green and sparkling with freshness. My eyes went to the herd of cattle contentedly eating away at the fresh spring grass. The grass was thick and lush fulfilling all their needs. They did not have a need to search for something to eat. They could stand in a small area and eat to their heart's content.

There were several young calves that were playing and running through the grass. They ran kicking up their heels rejoicing that they were now free from being penned up. They had the whole pasture to run, play, rest, and eat.

My eyes then caught some cows off to the one side. They were not content to graze with the other cows. They were feasting on the weeds and grass that grew in the fence line. They tried to reach the grass that was so far under the fence. They spent their time right at the fence line. I wondered why? The grass was not as lush there. It had a lot more weeds there than in the middle of

the pasture. They kept reaching and trying to stretch their neck a little further. Finally one of the young heifers was able to stretch the fence enough that she could get through the fence. She kicked up her heels and rejoiced over her new find. What was so wonderful about the stubble that was in this field? The grass was sparse. There was a lot of stubble from last year mixed in with the new green grass. Soon some of the other cows that were trying the fence had gotten through also. They all thought it was wonderful they were free of the fence. What did they want in this sparse field?

As I watched what was going on I had to think if the farmer did not come and put them back in what perils would attack them if they were not in the fence of protection. The farmer had a reason to put the fence up. He wanted to keep them safe. He wanted to protect his investment. He tried his best to watch over his herd.

My thoughts then went to the church. How many of us are willing to stay away from the boundary fence? How many of us want to just stay at the boundary fence? How many of us want to be on the other side of the boundary fence? Are we willing to stay

in the boundaries that God has set for us, or do we feel the need to stretch those boundaries?

These boundaries are between the church and the world. God has told us to live separate from the world, to be a different and chosen people. Ezra 10:11, "Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives." This separate means to make a difference, divide, separate, or sever.

Matt. 25:32, "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats."

II Cor. 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

"Separate" in these two scriptures means to set off by boundary, limit, exclude, appoint, or divide.

God has called and directed us many times in the scriptures to be separate. Does He just want us to be separate in our heart? Did He want the Israelites just to separate themselves from the evil people by just separating their hearts? Or were they to actually separate their physical bodies from the evil people in the land? Is God expecting us to be His child by just saying that as long as my heart is right I am living a separate life? Are we living separate when we dress and look like the world?

Where are you enjoying your life with Christ? Are you basking in being content "feasting" on the lushness of the commandments that God has given to us? Or are you pushing on the fence trying out each commandment to see which ones you can get away with and still stay in the church. Remember God does not want His children to be lukewarm. He wants His children to be loyal followers of Him.

Sister Mabel Chupp

THE HIGH COST OF GOLD

"Whose adorning let it not be that...of wearing of gold." I Peter 3:3

Christians have always un-

derstood that the spirit of the New Testament's teaching is the critical issue. We can all go off on a tangent to such a degree

that we stress the inconsequential and miss the weightier matters of Scripture. It is certainly tragic to embrace the outward teaching of the Word and miss the essential spiritual truth. But to propose that the importance of a good heart contradicts the need to actually obey is more than tragic. It is false doctrine.

There are also legitimate places in Scripture for sincere believers to disagree. Even the most literalistic Anabaptist Christians understand the need for liberty of practice in a number of areas. But what are those areas? One area of contemporary disagreement among evangelical believers is the wearing of gold adornment. Some propose that we should literally obey the New Testament injunctions to avoid wearing gold. Others say that we cannot be legalistic with the New Testament text and that any amount of jewelry is fine. And, some saints say that we should wear some, but not a lot of gold.

The ultimate reason to embrace a literal understanding of both Peter's and Paul's teaching on this topic is the text itself. However, historical arguments (How did the early, first century church practice?) and other con-

cerns can also impact the issue.

Perhaps a new reason for all varieties of Christians to consider literally obeying the teaching of the New Testament on this topic is the unbelievable environmental degradation of modern gold mining. In conjunction with this terrible destruction of our land is the pathetic social cost to the world's poorest people. Recently (10-24-05 New York Times), Jane Pertz and Kirk Johnson published the results of their investigation of gold mining on our world. The documented facts are as sobering as they are shocking:

1. The current gold mania "is almost all about the soaring demand for jewelry, which consumes 80 percent or more of the gold mined today." There is almost no industrial need for this gold.

2. The amount of mining (and consequent environmental destruction) for this jewelry is amazing. "Consider a ring. For that one ounce of gold, miners dig up and haul away 30 tons of rock and sprinkle it with diluted cyanide, which separates the gold from the rock...and drizzle the ore with the poisonous solution for years." The devastation to

our earth is beyond measure.

3. "Gold mines have become the near-equivalent of nuclear waste dumps that must be tended in perpetuity. Hard-rock mining generates more toxic waste than any other industry in the United States, according to the EPA." Yet, our culture remains strangely silent about this greatest of environmental threats because of our love of gold jewelry.

4. Because of economic globalization, the gold trade has been able to expand dramatically beyond the westernized nations. "The newly moneyed consumers who line the malls of Shanghai and the bazaars of Mumbai sent jewelry sales shooting to a record \$38 billion this year...." China sales surged 11% in one year and India was up 47% in the same twelve months! The appetite for its use in jewelry, temples and dowries makes gold sales soar.

5. The use of cyanide in gold mining, referred to above, is necessary because such mining "must also be easy and cheap to be profitable, and that means cyanide." When one considers the worldwide scope of this poi-

soning, it is very disturbing.

6. Even, here, in the USA, we are destroying a lot of our land. "At some mines in Nevada, 100 tons or more of earth have to be excavated for a single ounce of gold...." And, "these new man-made mountains are lined with irrigation hoses that silently trickle millions of gallons of cyanide solution over the rock for years." How do "environmentalists" who cannot tolerate almost inconsequential impact to our land through farming or ranching, remain silent on the single, most devastating environmental disaster happening before our eyes? Probably the one, most effective, personal impact that a 21st century human being can have on our environment is to abstain from supporting this devastation in any manner at all.

Most importantly, has the time come for all believers in our Lord and His Word to adopt a more straightforward understanding of the New Testament prohibitions concerning the wearing of gold? How can our conscience tolerate the wearing of such emblems of devastation and destruction? And, as documented beyond rational dispute, the human costs to poor, indig-

enous, third world farmers have been unforgivably high.

If all professing believers would begin literal obedience in this "small" way, the effects for good on the poor and the environment of this world would be dramatic. No, politically correct environmental issues do not dictate our agenda. But, we certainly have been commanded to

be stewards of this earth who strive to replenish it. And, the presence of a people who walk fully in the New Testament teachings is a wonderful, living witness to all humanity.

Mike Wine
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SERVICE

B. F. Fridley

Our mind has been meditating upon the above subject and the scripture references. Particularly two verses contained in the scripture namely: Phil. 2:17, "Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all." Also Rev. 2:19, "I know thy works; and the last to be more than the first."

In these two verses we have more contained therein than we perhaps can get out for edification, and without the help of God we can do nothing. We find it that way in the everyday affairs of life. God gave us health and a mind to know how to do our daily work, otherwise we would fail.

Service implies work as the

above verse implies, "I know thy works, and charity, the service, and faith." From these verses we understand, that God expects us to go to work for Him in His loving service. Perhaps today there are loving words that Jesus would have me speak. There may be some in the paths of sin whom Jesus would have me save. "Oh! Savior if thou wilt be my guide though hard and rugged the way; I'll do what you want me to do; I'll say what you want me to say."

The only way to be safe is to get back to the blessed old Bible, the book of God and His divine revelation. God says, "Anoint thine eyes with eye salve that thou mayest see." Rev. 3:18. That simply means to love and

follow truth to be alive to righteousness.

When traveling on the train one may look out at the clouds; yet you cannot tell if they are moving but when one gets off the train and stands still you can tell if a wind is driving them. So if we are going with the world in its intemperance we do not realize that we are running with them in the same excess of riot. If we remain separate from the world and keep ourselves pure, we then can see that the world is running wild.

This is a materialistic world, pleasure loving, money and power crazy. The time is short; we must be brief and to the point. People have forgotten God and His ways. "The ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them but the transgressor shall fall therein." Hosea 14:9.

Why is the Bible such a neglected book today and so little obeyed? We see the word going into fulfillment rapidly. The daily newspaper tells us what is going on, exactly as it was foretold years ago. Therefore we say the old Bible is the most up to date book in the world. We can know by its teachings the future events coming upon the world.

Hear the apostle Paul speak,

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." I Thess. 5:4. Why because Jesus told us how it would be and the Holy Spirit, operating through the apostles, spake and gave us warning. "Let no man deceive you," says the apostle. No wonder if Satan be transformed into an angel of light. That means to try to make it appear as the work of God to deceive men.

According to the Bible the great Anti-Christ will claim to do his miracles by the power of God; when it is the power of Satan. No wonder we read in Rev. 3:11, "Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." There is a reward in Heaven for every faithful son and daughter who loves and follows Jesus. Hear Jesus speak, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27. Jesus told us, "...the pure in heart shall see God," again, "...keep thyself pure." Therefore we make the assertion that the love of the world and worldly things are idolatry in the sight of God. Because the word of God says, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust

of the eye, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:16.

Again the scripture says, take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine. We need that heed in performing work of service, in charity, and encouragement to the soul. We are told to fight the good fight of faith; to keep the soul pure is like keeping a garden clean; we must weed it. Clean thought makes clean lives.

Here as we journey through this world, here to be exercised the patience of the Saints: here

are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. Rev. 14:12. Revive thy church O God with grace. Forgive our sins and grant us peace. Rouse us from sloth, our hearts inflame. Kindle our zeal for Jesus name.

Now in conclusion: keeping yourselves in the love of God and the patient waiting for Christ.

Selected from the
October 1, 1946 issue of
the Bible Monitor

BIBLE STORY

TOO WICKED FOR GOD TO SAVE

Genesis 6

After Enoch was taken to heaven his son, Methuselah, had a son Lamech and Lamech had a son called Noah. It was in Noah's time that the wickedness of man became very great. There were giants of the earth at that time. It seems that mankind became so wicked and sinful that they forgot all about God who had made the earth and had given them a good place to live and food to eat. God said that His spirit would not always strive with man, but that He would let them live another 120 years.

God was so sorry that He had made man and it grieved God in His heart; but man became so sinful that God determined to destroy man from off the face of the earth.

Now Noah was a righteous man, he walked with God like Enoch, and Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. The people of the earth were so wicked that Noah and his wife and his sons and their wives were the only good people on the earth. So God told Noah to build a large boat. This boat was to be 450

feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high – big enough to hold all the animals and birds that God wanted to save. It had been estimated that there was room in this big boat for 7000 different kinds of animals.

God told Noah to seal this big boat with pitch so that it wouldn't leak. He also told Noah to take all kinds of food so that they would have something to eat because God would send a flood upon the earth. It would rain for 40 days and 40 nights and God

would destroy every living thing from off the face of the earth except those that were in the big boat that Noah built.

The Bible says, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of man." God wants man to be good and God is merciful. But when man becomes so wicked that there is hardly any good left, God will destroy the wicked and save the righteous.

Brother Rudy Cover

OBITUARIES

CHARLES HERMAN SHOFSTAHL

Charles H. Shofstahl of Petersburg, Ohio passed away August 10, 2006 at his home of acute leukemia following a two year illness. He was sixty-five. He was a good friend and brother to many in the Dunkard Brethren Church and he will be missed.

He was born June 15, 1941 in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. He served nine years in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He was a pastor for ten years in the local area during the 1970's. He became a writer, editor, and publisher of Christian books. He was a devout follower of Christ, holding to old historic Baptist doctrinal positions. He was a devoted husband and father.

He is survived by his wife, the former Darlene L. Smith, whom he married September 17, 1965; four daughters, Miss Deborah Shofstahl of Columbiana, Ohio, Rachel Jack and her husband Thomas of New Waterford, Ohio, Miss Abigail Shofstahl, at home and Miriam Brown and her husband Charles of Prairie View, Illinois; three sons, Daniel and Jonathan, at home and David and his wife Leah, of Clinton Forge, Virginia; a step-sister, Janet Bacon, of Lakeland, Florida; a brother, David R. Shofstahl, of Cedartown,

Georgia; a step-brother, Allan Chamberlin of Leetonia, Ohio; and nine grandchildren.

The funeral was August 13, at the Seederly-Mong and Beck Funeral Home in North Lima, Ohio. Pastor Stan Burrell officiated. Burial was at Petersburg Cemetery.

Brother Charles was a good friend and was deeply committed to the work of the Lord. One of his interests was reprinting the old, out of print books that edified and blessed many people in times past. We know that his work will continue through many avenues, and we wish God's richest blessings and comfort to his many loved ones.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

WILLIAM HEISEY

Bro. William Edward Heisey was born at home in Darke County, Ohio near Bradford on June 17, 1918 to Orien Elmer "Ora" and Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Lavey) Heisey. He departed this life on August 20, 2006 at Gade's Healthcare Center in Greenville, Ohio, where he had resided since March of 2003.

When a young boy, his parents became active in the Dunkard Brethren Church in Englewood, Ohio. William accepted the Lord in 1932 and became a member of this congregation. William was called to the deacon's office in October 1961. He served this position well and was called into the ministry twenty years later in April 1981. He filled this position to the best of his ability. The church advanced him to the elder's position in May 1987. He actively worked in the ministry until declining health prevented him from doing so, preaching his last sermon on December 31, 2000.

He was untied in marriage to Alice I. Bowman on June 7, 1941. He leaves to mourn six sons: Larry E. and wife, Joyce of Troy, Ohio, Duane L. and wife, Dixie of Pendleton, Indiana, Dale E. and wife, Connie of Goshen, Indiana, Jan L. and wife, Freda of Taylorsville, Mississippi, Paul E. and wife, Dianne of West Unity, Ohio, Steven L. and wife, Renee of West Unity, Ohio, and one daughter Karen E. Blocher and husband, Stephen of Bradford, Ohio; eighteen grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, relatives and friends, including special friends, Jesse and

Kathy Allen and daughter Sheena of Milford, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Orien and Mary Elizabeth, his wife, Alice, his infant daughter, Delores Ann, sister, Edna M. Flick and half-brother John David "JD" Heisey.

His family was his delight and he loved to have them home. He enjoyed dairy and grain farming for many years on the family farm south of Bradford. In addition he almost always worked away from home at such jobs as driving a school bus, hauling coal, custom hay baling and grain harvesting, working at Hobart Bros. Co. in Troy, Ohio, working at a tomato cannery in Bradford, Ohio and Martin's Hatchery in Gettysburg, Ohio. In his retirement years, he enjoyed fishing and traveling.

The funeral service was conducted at the Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church on August 24. The officiating Brethren were Elder Keith Bailey, Elder Paul Stump and Brother David Rice. The songs used at the service were "How Great Thou Art", "At the Golden Gate of Prayer", "Meet Me In Heaven", and "What a Day That Will Be".

His body was laid to rest at Miami Memorial Park Cemetery north of Covington, Ohio beside his companion to await the resurrection.

The family would like to express their gratitude to friends and loved ones who showed support and concern during Daddy's illness and his passing, with visits, prayers, cards, food, flowers, and memorial contributions. May God richly bless each of you.

The Family

LEONARD MOSS

Leonard Wayne Moss was born December 2, 1938 in Dallas County, Iowa to Paul S. and Beulah J. (Flora) Moss. He died August 22, 2006 at his home in Dallas Center, Iowa.

He graduated from Dallas Center High School in 1956. He married Sharilyn Kay Carter on March 25, 1961. He co-owned and operated a farm equipment dealership, Moss Brothers, Inc. with his brother Jerry since 1969. He was involved in the community as a Township Trustee, City Councilman and fireman. He was an active member of Christ's Church, Waukee, Iowa.

He is survived by his wife, Sharilyn Kay Moss, Dallas Center, Iowa; his mother, Beulah J. Reed, Dallas Center, Iowa; his eight children, Richard Moss, Stuart, Iowa, Andrew (Virginia) Moss, Winchester, Illinois, Amy (Joel) Hofland, Dallas Center, Iowa, Melody (Ron) Steilen, Dallas center, Iowa, Philip (Kim) Moss, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Dawn (Scott) Crecelius, Dallas Center, Iowa, Megan Moss, Grimes, Iowa and Micah Moss, Grimes, Iowa. He is also survived by his brother Jerry Moss, Dallas Center, Iowa; five sisters, Esther (Marvin) Haldeman, Quinter, Kansas, Marilyn (Milton) Cook, Beaumont, California, Edith Moss, Modesto, California, Catherine (Wilbur) Sheets, Dallas Center, Iowa and Martha (Doug) Brown, Ottumwa, Iowa. Also surviving is his stepsister, Marie (Ross) Sines, Oakland, Maryland and three stepbrothers, Loren (Cheryl) Reed, Shelby, Michigan, Larry (Mindy) Reed, Dallas Center, Iowa and Rolland (Diana) Reed, Arkansas, Wisconsin. He leaves twenty grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the Dallas Center – Grimes Middle School on Sunday, August 27, 2006. His Pastor, David Nadler, delivered the message. Burial was in Brethren Cemetery, near Dallas Center, where Elder Fred Pifer conducted the graveside services.

MARRIAGE

Sister Carmel Miller, daughter of Brother Dean and Sister Melody Miller, and Brother Andy Keeney, son of Brother Randal and Sister Darlene Keeney, were united in marriage on April 8, 2006 at Codorus Church of the Brethren, Loganville, Pennsylvania. Their address is 11814 Hill Street, Felton, PA 17322

NEWS ITEMS

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2006 Leadership Conference will be held November 10 – 12, 2006 at the Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church. The sessions for the officials will be held during the day on Friday and Saturday. There will be public preaching services on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday morning.

JUNIPER HILLS, NEW MEXICO

The Juniper Hills Congregation has changed the date of their Lovefeast Service from September 30, 2006 to October 7, 2006. The Examination Service will be at 2:00 PM and the Lovefeast will follow in the evening.

Please inform the Congregation in advance if you plan to attend from out of state.

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The many cards, gifts, and letters received in honor of my 75th Birthday was greatly appreciated.

May the Lord richly bless you for your kindness and encouragement.

Sister Maxine Surbey

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all who remembered us on our 64th wedding anniversary and my 87th birthday. We appreciate your prayers and good wishes. May God bless you all.

Brother William and Larena Carpenter

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR
NOVEMBER 2006**

Nov. 5 - Spiritual Math: Be Diligent to Add – II Peter 1:1-11

1. How has Peter's focus switched from his first epistle, and why has it changed?
2. Is the order of addition (from the title) important? Why?

Nov. 12 – An Eyewitness of His Majesty – II Peter 1:12-21

1. What was Peter trying to get them to remember?
2. Why was remembrance so important?

Nov. 19 – THANKSGIVING – Psalm 145:1-21

1. For what things does David praise and thank God?
2. What conditions must we meet to be heard and fulfilled by God?

Nov. 26 – False Prophets Lead the Way to Destruction – II Peter 2:1-11

1. What are the methods and tactics false teachers use?
2. Why does Peter discuss Noah, the flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 2006

Nov. 5 – Decisions – Ex. 32:26, Deut. 30:19, John 24:15, I Kings 18:21, Matt. 27:17

1. When we face decisions that question our life, loyalty, or faithfulness, how do we respond?

2. Why do we sometimes try to avoid making decisions?

Nov. 12 – New Wine in Old Bottles – Matt. 9:15-17, Mark 2:19-28,
Luke 5:36-39

1. Why does Jesus use this object lesson, and what does it show?
2. Is this a discussion of the way of “law” verses the way of “grace”?

Nov. 19 – Thanksgiving – Psalm 119:57-64, Dan. 2:20-23, Luke
17:15-19, Eph. 5:4, 20

1. Under what conditions were these men thanking God?
2. Is there a difference between “In everything give thanks” and
“Give thanks for all things”?

Nov. 26 – The Lost Sheep – Matt. 18:11-14, Luke 15:1-7

1. What was Jesus saying about the Pharisees, the sinners?
2. What are our feelings for the lost?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXXIV

NOVEMBER, 2006

NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HE IS MINE

Emily R. Moore

Afar from God and doomed to die
But love divine hath bro't me nigh, -
God in mercy heard my cry,
Now I am His and He is mine.

Eternal life is mine today
And light that ne'er shall fade away
Comforter and strength and stay:
Jesus is mine, Jesus is mine.

His grace exceeds my direct need
On Him the Heavenly Bread I feed
Kept, sustained, as on He leads
I am my Lord's, He is mine.

His peace doth banish every fear
Assuring hope gives courage and cheer
Joy abounding brings Heaven near,
Ah, I am His, He is mine.

Selected by Brother Galen Litfin

HALLELUJAH! PRAISE THE LORD!

While the Thanksgiving season should prompt us to be thankful, we should not confine our thankfulness to one day a year. Each day brings its own supply of blessings from our Heavenly Father. We have been the recipients of innumerable blessings, but we often forget to return heartfelt praise.

Praise is one of the constant themes of the Book of Psalms. All of the writers of the Psalms speak of the praise that is due the Lord. The writers of the Psalms found many reasons and ways to express their thankfulness. Their writing should encourage us to be as liberal with our praise as they were.

We have received even more to be thankful for than they had, for we live in the New Tes-

tament Age. We have the blessings derived from the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They could only look forward to that event; we are able to enjoy its benefits.

Such an expression of the Psalmist's urge to praise is found in Psalm 111:1. "Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation."

The writer first considers the quality of his praise. He says it will be with his whole heart. No matter what endeavor we engage in, we want to do it with our whole heart. A half-hearted response is insufficient, especially when we praise the Lord. We must give our best praise. He has given to each many

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blessings, material, physical and Spiritual. For all of these we should give our most wholesome praise. A whole heart denotes praise given without reservation or hindrance.

If we were as willing to praise God, as we are to discuss the weather, sports, or business, we would have a happier frame of mind. If praise were our number one topic we would be known as a very thankful people. The people of God should praise Him with a whole heart.

The writer next speaks of praise being in the assembly of believers. This indicates that our praise is not only individual but also as a part of the family of God. Believers are commanded and urged to gather from time to time for public worship. In this worship praise should be evident as each part of the service unfolds. Bible study should make us thankful for the preserving of the Word and its easy access. The song service should spark our praise toward God, not just in the making of music but in the words and thoughts expressed in the songs. The presence of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the depths of God's Word through the

preaching and teaching of the Word should cause us to praise the Lord for sharing these truths with us. Just as a lone ember will soon die so believers without regular inspirational fellowship will also drift and die. Praise in the assembly should be appropriate and respectful. Praise should be uplifting not just emotional. The gathering of the Saints should be a time of praise.

The writer lastly speaks of praise in the organized body of believers. God has not left us alone to find our way, but has provided help along the way with our fellow believers. In the congregation the believer can find the opportunity to praise God for the fellowship, the organized means of carrying out the ordinances delivered by God to His saints for their Spiritual welfare. The organized body provides a place of commitment. That commitment provides an opportunity to present ourselves as dedicated disciples of the Lord. As followers together we can praise God for those who are willing to go along the same pathway toward Heaven. The Church is a safe haven for the believer where he can receive many blessings. He should gladly

praise God for providing such an oasis in the midst of this troubled and troubling world. The Church provides a continuous link from the church of the past unto the church of the future. Many of the blessings of God come through the Church. We should be thankful that in His wisdom he has provided such a blessing for us.

Our praise directed to the Lord can be at various levels. We can praise Him in our individual heartfelt way, wherever we are. We can praise Him in the assembly of the believers who share the many ways each has been blessed. We can

praise Him in the organized body of believers, where there are many hedges and protections placed around us so we might safely travel through this world. Praise is expected of the people of God who have been blessed above all people.

Without Jesus Christ we would be miserable and unthankful, with Him we have so much for which to praise God.

Will your Thanksgiving be a day of feasting and fun or will it be a day of praise? Will it be whole-hearted praise?

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

M.C.Cook

GIVING THANKS TO HIS NAME

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Hebrews 13:15

We get caught up in the daily cares and joys of life and even in the work and duties of the Church and all too often we forget to give thanks to His name.

When we sing our songs of worship such as "Count Your Many Blessings" and others expressing what the Lord has done for us do we merely repeat

words or does our soul rejoice in giving thanks to His name?

We can give thanks to His name by testifying to others of His goodness to us. In Hebrews 13:5 we read, "Let your conversation (lifestyle) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

We can give thanks to His name for healing of our body (according to His will) and soul. In Luke chapter ten Jesus sent

out seventy followers, giving them the power to heal the sick and cast out demons. They returned to Jesus rejoicing (by implication) that they saw many healed and that even the demons were subject to His name. But in verse 20 Jesus told them, "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

We can give thanks to His name for the freedoms we enjoy in this country. While we are to be good citizens and respect our government officials along with our government symbol, the flag, we should always be aware of the fact that it is not military might and police protection that ultimately gives us our freedoms but they are a blessing from God. Down through the ages the true Church has rejoiced and given thanks to His name even in the midst of persecution, as Christ had commanded, while we all too often fail to give thanks to His name while enjoying relative freedom.

We should give thanks to His name for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Hebrews 13:1 says, "Let brotherly love continue."

We should give thanks to His name for leaders who preach the Truth. Hebrews 13:7 reads, "Remember those who have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation (lifestyle)."

We should give thanks to His name for the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 13:21 reads, "Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

We should give thanks to His name for the necessities of life. It is difficult for most who live in America to even imagine what it is like to be without what we call necessities unless we have had the opportunity to view how others live in other countries (which we personally have not). Probably everyone reading this has a comparatively beautiful house to live in. We cannot really imagine what it would be like to live in a hut. Growing up we lived in a home without running water and, of course, no inside plumbing. We did have electricity. There are those who because of religious belief do not

have these accommodations. But many in other countries would consider even those who do not have these to be living in luxury. Along with the electricity are the many appliances that it runs. Again, those without electricity have merely substituted gas or some other means of power in most instances in this country. While we recognize that not everything that is run by electricity can be considered a blessing from God, we all too often fail to give thanks to His name for those things that, we believe, are.

Among all the earthly blessing, most of all we should give thanks to His name for a home in Heaven. Hebrews 13:14 reads, "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come." Christians suffer sickness, pain and sorrow along

with the rest of those who live in America. But none of these will be in Heaven! Some Christians suffer a lack of food and water (though this may be difficult to understand) but this will not be true in Heaven! As Brother Paul Stump stated in a revival meeting at the Bethel Congregation, no matter how glorious you may imagine Heaven to be when you get there it will be more glorious yet!

Hebrews 13:5 would seem to refer to God the Father. But we should give thanks to the name of God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ also. He shed His blood on Calvary's tree and rose victorious from the grave to provide this home in Heaven.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 1708-2704

PRAY FOR THE MISSIONARIES

We all admire those who are willing to forsake their homes and families to follow Christ. What a tremendous commitment to leave home, and in some cases uproot a spouse and children as well, in answer to God's call! And God may lead His followers to a foreign coun-

try where there is civil unrest, disease, and poor living conditions. These committed, courageous souls need support through the prayers of those at home.

In Ephesians 1:16, we are exhorted to follow Paul's example, and "cease not to give

thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers". The Apostle Paul then tells what he asks of God on their behalf. In verses seventeen to nineteen of Ephesians 1, he asks that these fellow believers would have:

- a spirit of wisdom and revelation
- enlightened understanding
- knowledge of the hope of His calling
- knowledge of the riches of the glory of His inheritance
- the exceeding greatness of His power

That is a pretty comprehensive list for us to take to our Heavenly Father on behalf of our missionaries! In the first chapter of Colossians, verses nine through fourteen, a very similar passage is found: a listing of Paul's prayer requests for

the church abroad.

Our brothers and sisters on the mission field struggle daily with loneliness, discouragement, and sickness. We must pray fervently for them, knock on heaven's door daily! We should e-mail, call, send letters, and visit as we are able, but above all, we must never forget to pray! When we humble ourselves and pray, seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways we are promised that Heaven will respond. Think of the power our missionaries would have! Think of the results we would see! And as we seek God's face, more will heed the call to go.

May God continue to use us and our earnest prayers to spread His saving Gospel to the uttermost part of the earth!

Sister Charisse Aungst

A MESSAGE FOR BURDENED PEOPLE

Tucked away in two moderately short verses, the Lord has planted a deep and meaningful message for burdened people. Matthew 11:28-29.

First He appeals to all those who feel very burdened and overloaded. Verse 28, "Come unto me all ye that labour and

are heavy laden..." Jesus tells us in other scriptures that He did not come to this earth to heal those who need no physician. He does not call only those who seem to have it all together and can handle with ease everything life throws at them. Jesus not only welcomes, but He calls

those who don't have it all together and realize it. When we are at our breaking point, can't handle anymore; Jesus can provide us with rest. "Come unto me...I will give you rest."

Verse 29, "...learn of me...." Jesus tells us to become students of Him. We are to be students not only in the way we can be students of a subject such as arithmetic or reading. But in a deeper sense when we not only learn about Him to gain knowledge but also discover who He is. So we get to better know Him, grow closer to Him, apply the things we learn to our own lives and become more like Him day by day.

He goes on to say, "...for I am meek and lowly in heart...", Jesus is gentle, kind, and humble. When the apostles would have chased away the children, Jesus took them in and blessed them. When Lazarus had died Jesus wept. Gathered in the upper room on that Last Supper it would have seemed fitting and proper for the disciples to wash Jesus' feet but it was Jesus who washed their feet.

While on trial He was spit on, slapped, mocked and abused, but He held His peace.

He could have annihilated all of His persecutors in an instant. Jesus did not retaliate. Hanging on the cross between two thieves our Lord still endured false accusations and mockery. Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Even the one thief railed upon Him saying, "If thou be God save thyself and us." Through all this Jesus remained gentle, and kind which shows us the great humbleness that He possess.

Jesus tells us He sends us out as sheep amongst wolves. He also tells us that we can expect to be treated in a like manner as He was. If we can learn to endure these things without anger, self-pity, bitterness, or a desire to revenge welling up in our hearts we will be drawing closer to our perfect example and we are promised rewards for this. "...ye shall find rest unto your souls..." understanding.

In the midst of chaos, misunderstandings, false accusations and whatever may befall us here on this earth we can find that rest for our souls if we "learn of him".

Brother Vernon Martin
African Mission

INVOLVEMENT IN CHILDREN'S LIVES

Since I have come to Kenya, I have been involved in children's lives in different ways. I have taught Sunday School in Chepkorniswo, helped Nadine do Bible Schools at all the churches, and helped teach Vernon and Jen's boys.

Young children are ready to learn and can learn pretty fast. That is one reason it is very important what we teach them. I was teaching the children at Chepkorniswo about the Creation one day. After I had finished teaching, the thought came to me of how important the work was I was doing. I have really come to love the children at Chepkorniswo, being with them every Sunday. It has been exciting for me to see them grow in understanding of the Bible and the stories that are in the Bible! I thank God that He has placed me at Chepkorniswo to help teach the children. I feel a great responsibility as I try to teach

them the truth of God's Word.

It is also rewarding to hear the children recite Bible verses that we have taught them in Bible School. The Bible verses that they have memorized will be in the children's hearts for a long time. "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:105) I have thought about that verse many times and how true it is. The Bible verses I memorized when I was younger have come back to me when I needed them. I hope and pray that the children whom I have invested some time in, will remember the truth of God's Word, they have been taught and will be able to grow up to be strong men and women for Jesus.

I want to thank each of you who have prayed for me and the Mission here in Kenya.

May God bless you,
Sister Lucy Kasza

GREETINGS

How are you today?

Greetings from the Church Family in Kenya to all of you in America. Those of you who have been here know that greet-

ings are very important to the people. It does not matter how busy you are it is important to pause for a moment and greet those you know. It is offensive

to start a conversation without first greeting the person with, "How are you?"

One day I took someone to the stage (taxi). I saw a small boy from church standing beside the road. He was waiting for a taxi to take him home. He lives a fifteen-minute drive on the other side of Makutano. I smiled and waved at him and then came back home. I saw his mother the following day. She told me that he said, "I saw Nadine, but she did not even stop to greet me."

I learned a lesson from him that day. To me it did not seem necessary to pause, get out of the van and go greet him with a

hand-shake. I have to ask myself now. What was so important that day that I did not take three minutes to stop and let a child know he was cared about, just by greeting him? What is more important in our lives than people? A greeting is just a small way to share God's love. There will always be things to do and places to go. We never know when we will greet someone for the last time. Let's take a few moments of our lives and stop and give a greeting.

I John 4:7

Thank you for your prayers,
Sister Nadine Marks

GREED

When we give in to greed, it may cost us a lot. There were several parents who yielded to greed and they paid a high price.

The government in Kenya was funding a program to help children to avoid contracting malaria. They offered a free mosquito net for every child that came in for an immunization shot. The parents desiring more free nets would take the tape off the child's arm and go to another clinic. They would have the child get another shot, in order to re-

ceive another net. As a result of the greed some children were over-dosed and died.

It seems very senseless that a child's life would be lost in an effort to get an extra mosquito net. But how often do people make their children's spiritual health a lower priority than their selfish desires for financial gain, social status or some other pursuit. In the process the child could lose his or her soul. The value of whatever they are pursuing takes priority over a child's

spiritual well being. Whatever it is that they are pursuing just like the mosquito nets it can never come close to equaling the value of that child's soul. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 15:27a, "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house." I am sure the parents had no idea

what the consequences would be. Just like these parents, we may not always realize why something is harmful for us. We need to simply trust and obey God and the authorities He put into our life.

Sister Jenny Martin

YOUTH CONFERENCE

We just hosted youth retreat here at the Kenya Mission. It was fun to watch the youth as they came full of excitement and energy. During the course of the retreat there were several that were sick. The one Pokot girl spent almost two days in our house bundled up in blankets. I fed her meals and gave her chai to drink. The first day I tried to communicate with her she looked at me blankly and showed no expression. By Friday afternoon she was feeling much better and was up and around. Saturday before she left she returned the blanket that I had allowed her to use. She thanked me in broken English. I told her I would look for her when I came to her church. Her face lit up with a smile and she

said, "I will welcome you."

I felt closer to each of the youth that with God's help I was able to "nurse" back to health. After they left with smiles I had to think about God and His relationship with His children. I did not want anyone to be sick here however the ones that were sick are the ones I became closest to and felt I was able to reach. It is in times of distress that we often call on the Lord. In Psalms 119:67 David writes, "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word." So often in this life we tend to go astray. When we are afflicted is when we are often drawn closer to God.

Sister Jenny Martin

I AM THE WAY

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

We need to take hold of the truth, and we need the truth to take hold of us. Nothing else will do. We can preach all kinds of things, and doctrines and teachings but the truth remains. Do not look to me. Do not look to any preacher, or elder, or "media minister". Look to Jesus. He is the way, the truth, and the life.

"Yes, but," you say. There is no, "Yes, but", to be found. Nothing is more important than the truth. It is found in a person: the person of Jesus Christ. You can know all about Him and still not know Him. You can read about Him, and hear about Him, and still not know Him. You can spend your whole life in the church and not know Him.

People's souls are worth more than the whole world, yet people would throw a soul away to get their own way. To many it is more important to lift up themselves than to stoop down to help a soul find Christ.

We must remove church leadership from politics. The two must never mix. Politics has destroyed churches and split

churches. It must never be once named among us. Christ must be first and foremost.

Jesus said, "I am the way". In John 10:1 Jesus says, "He that entereth not by the door of the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." In verse seven He says, "I am the door of the sheep." He not only is the way, but He is the door of the sheepfold. "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) It cannot get much clearer than that. Any child can understand it. Most adults cannot.

Paul states in II Corinthians 11:3, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

The simple gospel will defeat the "thinking man" who believes he came from a puddle of slime. Science seeks to explain the unexplainable, the answer of which can be summed up in one word – GOD. There is nothing miraculous in the things we can explain. Our God is a God of miracles. Modern science does not believe in miracles, yet it seeks to explain

the unexplainable. No scientific explanation of creation makes any more sense than the literal six-day creation. Yet, because it is God, and man WILL NOT YIELD to the authority of God, the six day miracle is excluded.

The whale swallowed Jonah; the ark was built by Noah and filled with animals, and God shut the door. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and healed the blind man. He is the Son of God. He is the Way. When we try to explain such things we do away with the faith necessary to follow Him. God must be God: He must be the final authority and the Lord of our life, and Jesus is the only way to get to Him.

The Apostle Paul was changed in the blink of an eye. We cannot explain it. If we try then God becomes less of a God to us. The mystery of Godliness? "Christ in you the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27) Can you explain it? God is the Author of it. When the worlds and all that is in them were created He said it was very good. We cannot say otherwise. It is not possible for me to explain "Christ in you and you in Christ", but that is scripture and the

transaction must take place.

Jesus said, "follow me" at least seventeen times to various people in the four Gospels. Levi dropped everything and followed. So did many others. Yet for all those who followed, how many "yes, buts" were there? How many excuses were there? Today people say there are many roads to heaven, but Jesus said, "I am the way." Yet the world does not know Him. The world is being beguiled with riches: things too costly to give up.

Brother Andrew, the man responsible for smuggling Bibles into Communist lands, says that he was sorry to see the Berlin Wall come down because it meant that the East Germans would be enticed by the riches of the West. After the fall of communism in Europe there was less interest in spiritual things and more of an interest in riches.

We need to be steadfast. If Jesus is the way, then He is the way indeed. God's Word will reveal to us the way we should walk. Let us never depart from it.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

HOW QUICK WE ARE TO FORGET

How often do we forget the blessings that God has given to us daily? We have a good day, we get a raise, the garden is flourishing, the children are behaving, the car is running smoothly, co-workers appreciate us, we took a wonderful vacation, and the list can go on and on. Then one day something happens, the children get sick, there is a hospital stay, we get a drought, boss reprimands us for a job not done so well, children not cooperating, car breaks down, you have an argument with a co-worker, friends take a wonderful vacation, and you feel depressed.

The Israelites saw the power of God while they were in Egypt. They saw how God could do much more than the Egyptian lords. They saw how God could take the mighty waters of the Red Sea, part the waters and they could all walk through on dry ground. Their God was a mighty God. Their God is the same God that I serve.

When the Israelites started having problems, they were thirsty, they were tired of the

same thing for breakfast, lunch, and dinner day after day, month after month, and they forgot how strong their God was. They complained and forgot. All they could think of was how bad off they were right now.

The spies went into the Promised Land. Ten of the spies could only see the giants, and thought of how small they were. They forgot how BIG their God was. They forgot the promises that God gave them. They did not want to be encouraged by what God had blessed them with.

How many times am I just like these Israelites? How many times have I "shook" a finger at the Israelites and said, "Why did they forget." Why could they not remember all the miracles that God performed for them?

Then I have to think about the three fingers pointing back at me. God has done so much for me. Am I remembering all that He has done for me? Am I appreciative of all those blessings?

Sister Mabel Chupp

OUR SAVIOR'S PROMISE

C. W. O'Brien

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Jno. 14:2-3. The great promise that should cheer us on life's journey from the cradle to the grave.

Starting out on this subject brings to my memory a poem I used to know:

Oh why should the spirit of
mortal be proud.

A swift flying meteor, a fast
flying cloud;

A flash of lightening, a break
of the wave,

Man passes from life to his
rest in the grave.

How true this is. The writer has been on this journey for 76 years. I feel I am near the end of my journey. The great promise that our Savior made to his followers before he ascended; in my Father's house are many mansions, I go to prepare other mansions that where I am you may be also. We know that it takes a prepared people to in-

herit that prepared home. Then we will not say, I am weary, I am weary of the cares and toils of life, I am weary of its strife. But we can say with the poet:

Farewell vain world, I am
going home

My Savior smiles and bids
me come,

Death is the gate to endless
joy

And yet we dread to enter
that gate.

There is a glorious city being built in Heaven for the faithful. Mansions are being erected in it for Christ's followers. This wonderful city was already under construction when Christ was on earth. On His return to heaven He promised to continue this work. As the years passed new mansions were to be built to meet the demands of the saints as they finished their course, even down to the time when the Lord will come and claim His own. Then the resurrected saints and the living righteous will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. See I Cor. 15:51-53.

"For the Lord himself shall

descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thess. 4:16-17. So shall we ever be with the Lord, He will then take us to the mansions prepared for us in the city of God.

The natural man is a victim of suffering ever since the day in which mother Eve put forth her hand and partook of the forbidden fruit. Sorrow, suffering, trouble, and tribulation have never ceased to fall upon the human family. The curse that followed the first disobedience was a just but troublesome stroke. Our first parents were driven from the garden of paradise and bliss. It was a bitter reward.

"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow.... And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast harkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life." Gen. 3:16-18.

As time went on man increased in wickedness and irreverence toward God, until it even repented God that He had ever created man. However, our Savior's promise still stands just as He gave it. We should be seriously thinking whether we are ready to answer when He comes to fulfill His promise. "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matt. 25:21.

Selected from the
November 15, 1946 issue
of the Bible Monitor

BIBLE STORY

THE GREAT FLOOD - Genesis 7

The Lord told Noah that He would bring a flood of waters upon the earth. Noah built a huge boat called an ark. Peter says that Noah was a preacher of righteousness. I suppose that when Noah's neighbors saw him

building this large boat on dry land, they thought he was crazy. Surely Noah must have told them how God would destroy the people on the earth by water because of their wickedness, but they wouldn't believe Noah.

They were so satisfied to live in the pleasure of sin that they didn't want to believe the truth. People haven't changed much, have they? They just don't want to believe the truth because it would cause them to give up their foolish sins.

The day came when God told Noah to get his family and all of the animals in the ark because in seven more days it would rain for forty days and forty nights. Noah obeyed God and all of Noah's family, his wife, his three sons and their wives - only eight persons - were all in the ark. The animals and birds according to how God had commanded were all aboard. Their food and clothes - everything they needed was in the ark. And the Lord closed the door and shut them in.

After Noah was 600 years old in the second month and seventeenth day of the month, the

rain began to come. The Bible says that the fountains of the deep were broken up and the windows of heaven were opened. And it rained forty days and forty nights. Water came from out of the earth and out of the sky. Never, since God created man had there been so much water. Every living thing that had breath was destroyed. But Noah and his family and the animals and birds in the ark were safe. It floated on top of the water, and the water got deeper and deeper until the mountains were covered with water - nothing but water everywhere.

Noah's preaching, about a great flood had come true. God's Word is sure. He does exactly as He says. Today is the day of salvation. We should believe God's Word and do what He tells us while we have time.

Brother Rudy Cover

THE FIVE C'S OF CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP

Harold S. Martin

Next to your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and next to your resolution to crown Him the Lord of your life, comes the vital question of whom you shall marry. A wrong choice here can tragically wreck

your entire life. On the other hand, the right choice here can promise that your future years will be a bit of heaven on earth.

There is perhaps nothing more normal and more natural than for young people of the

opposite sex to be attracted to each other. Boys and girls have a God-given built-in attraction for each other. Girls, for example, should never be ashamed of their desire for a husband and a home and children. Marriage is a natural and God-blessed experience, and therefore we want to think through a program of courtship that will bring about a happy marriage.

1. THE CHARACTER OF COURTSHIP

When we talk about "courtship," we refer to that period during which a young man or a young woman finds a companion for life. Courtship affords two young people an opportunity to study at close range the attitudes and conduct and true worth of their friends. It would certainly be foolish for people suddenly to marry, without ever having paid any attention to each other, or without being mutually attracted and happy together. Marriage is God-ordained; it is sacred; it is a lifetime proposition, and the Bible encourages young people to consider marriage. We read in Proverbs 18:22, "Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord."

Surely God knows a few things about courtship, for it was God who established the institution of marriage, and it was God who joined the first man and the first woman in holy wedlock. And so we look into His Book for guidance and instruction concerning courtship practices.

2. THE COMMENCEMENT OF COURTSHIP

When we speak of "commencement," we speak of a beginning. The high school commencement at the end of the school year is not called "commencement" because it marks the end of a grammar school training, but because it marks the beginning of new responsibilities in life. And so when we speak of the commencement of courtship, we want to speak of a few matters that need to be considered at the beginning of courtship.

First, be a consecrated child of God — not just a church member, but a consecrated Christian. And by "Christian" we mean not merely one who attends church services, or one who treats his neighbors right, but one who has opened the door of his heart to the crucified Christ. A Christian

is one who has come to know the miracle of regeneration and has become a new creation in Jesus Christ. Such a person has new aims and new ambitions in life. He knows that his body belongs to Jesus Christ.

Second, pray that God will lead you to the right person for your companion through life. The Bible teaches God's people to pray about life's affairs. We are commanded to pray for our daily bread and for our physical needs. Surely this second greatest step in life (selecting a life companion) should always be accompanied by much praying and waiting before God. Amazing as it may seem, God is not so busy managing the affairs of this vast universe that He has no time to be concerned about whom you shall marry; He wants for you the very best in life; He will guide your choice and insure your happiness if you will only ask Him.

3. THE CHOICE OF COURTSHIP

The Bible is crystal clear in teaching that believers are never to even consider marriage with unbelievers under any circumstances whatever. From the very beginning, the

God-fearing family of Seth was forbidden to intermix by marriage with the irreligious family of Cain. When God established the law in Israel, care was taken to forbid intermarriage with the heathen nations about them (Deuteronomy 7:5). The New Testament very clearly commands the same thing (2 Corinthians 6:14). Those who seek your hand in marriage may be generous, rich, well-trained, handsome, and industrious — but unless they are children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, you must not make them husbands and wives. Failure to observe this basic law of the Scriptures has caused shipwreck in thousands upon thousands of homes.

When A Christian marries a non-Christian, he transgresses the law of God, and remember that "the way of the transgressor is hard." How will you be able to raise an altar to God in your house if you marry an unbeliever? Will your unbelieving partner urge you to do it? How will your children be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? You'll teach them one thing, and their daddy will teach them the opposite. What are you going to do when you

feel this opposition day after day? When you go to church services, he'll go to a ball-game. When you read the Bible and engage in prayer, he reads the latest novel and turns on the TV. When you praise the Lord, he indulges in blasphemy. You tell your children one thing; he encourages them to do the opposite. The Bible says, "How can two walk together except they be agreed?"

And then too, it is never sound judgment to choose a mate merely because of a pretty face, or because of curly hair, or because of captivating brown eyes. The facial features of some girls might contradict all the laws of a beauty contest, and yet many of those same girls have the graces of soul and spirit that will keep them attractive throughout their entire span of life. When a man's love for his wife is based merely on her youth and charm and beauty, that love doesn't last long because those qualities often soon fade away.

There are a lot of things in life far worse than being an old maid (or a bachelor), and one of the things which is worse than being an old maid, is to marry the wrong man. Never enter into the marriage relationship lightly.

Always look for characteristics such as cheerfulness, patience, industry, and kindness – qualities that abide the test of time.

4. THE CONFUSIONS OF COURTSHIP

There are many dangers and pitfalls for young people during the years of courtship. The devil stands ready to lead you into sin and to spoil the happiness of your life. God has made the bodies of men and women so that they attract each other. Woven into the physical bodies of both boys and girls are certain natural sex functions. These are necessary for the reproduction of the human race, but sex experience is right only within the bounds of true and honorable marriage. The Bible says, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whore mongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). Sex indulgence outside the bounds of honorable and true marriage is naked, shameful, wicked sin.

The sin of fornication (illicit sex relations among the unmarried) never occurs between two ordinary decent young people who want to do right, except through the stages of kissing, necking, and petting. Kissing is

the first act that paves the way and excites the passions to encourage the next step in the downward plunge that leads eventually to sin of fornication. Necking (the act of embracing and caressing) is the second step in the path that leads to sex relationships. Petting (handling parts of the body) is the final step that leads to the shameful sin of fornication.

Step by step (if you start) you will push back the barriers of what you permit, until it is almost impossible to avoid the final step of fornication. When people trifle with the human body, aroused passions become stronger than the will, and the bodily passions often take control. Remember that this is as true about girls as it is about boys. It is just as true about good boys as it is about bad boys. The best Christian in all the world (if he is not good enough to keep from necking and petting), may not be good enough to keep from fornication and adultery. And so for the sake of your Creator, for the sake of your health, for the sake of your future, and for the sake of your soul – make a pledge early in life never to practice habits that will lead to illicit sex relations.

5. THE COMRADSHIP OF COURTSHIP

There are wholesome things to do and worthwhile places to go during your courtship days. It is important to always have something definitely planned for each date. It is when young people have nothing to do that they begin habits that arouse evil desires. It is at such times when they begin kissing and necking and cuddling around in dark rooms and squirming in parked cars, and go far beyond their first intentions and plans. One of the best safeguards to pure noble courtship is a well-planned date.

a) Attend the services of the church together. There are the Sunday services, Bible studies, hymnsings, the prayer meeting, and other special services of the church.

b) Read and pray together. Why not agree to read a certain portion of the Bible at the same time each evening during the week? There's a special thrill that goes along with knowing that your Prince Charming is doing exactly the same thing you are doing at exactly the same time, even though you may be separated by many miles of space.

c) Visit old folks and homes

for the aging. It is really encouraging for older people to hear younger persons sing hymns and visit with them. The time passes more quickly for the older person and the experience will be a real blessing for each of you also.

d) Maintain hobbies together. Every young person ought to have a hobby. For girls, there is sewing, textile painting, and gathering collections of various kinds. For boys, there is photography, woodworking, coin collecting, etc. Share each other's interests in these respective hobbies.

e) Enjoy good music together. Not jazz and rock n' roll and popular music, but everybody likes to sing hymns around a piano. Perhaps it is old-fashioned, but there is something especially wholesome about singing hymns together.

These have been a few things you can do to make your courtship purposeful and con-

structive. Note that we did not include activities such as dancing, attending the commercial movies, and frequenting the public bathing beaches. These enterprises are geared to appeal to those who walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit of God.

When two people stand before God and promise to cherish each other until death separates them, it is not hard to believe that the angels in heaven hush their songs and grow silent in wonder as they listen to the holy vows, when two hearts and lives are joined in wedlock. Whatever your situation in life, we urge you to open the door of your heart and let Jesus come in. Surrender completely to His will for your life.

Note: Additional copies of this tract sent free on request. Ask for our sample packet of Bible Helps.

Bible Helps
P.O. Box 391
Hanover, PA 17331

FROM THE AUSBUND

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Colossians 3:16

The Ausbund is the only Christian Hymnal still in use since the 1500's, primarily by the Amish and Mennonites and other Anabaptist groups that

believe that we should keep alive the spirit of those persecuted for the cause of Christ. Though we do not use it in our services, the hymns therein are edifying and serve to strengthen the body of Christ. Most of the writers of these hymns gave their lives to uphold Jesus

Christ.

The following is from Hymn number 3 of the Ausbund, written by Adam Reizner in the middle 1500's. You will notice that these verses do not rhyme. They are translated from the German language. This hymn has thirty-five verses.

Verse 16:

Blandina was the name of a Christian woman,
Her body was stretched out like a cross
For the beasts to rend,
Was steadfast and unafraid,
So that the multitude was amazed,
No beast would bite her.
Fifteen years old was her son,
In suffering she comforted him,
A long time she had to endure torment.
In the fire she was comforted.
When she called upon the name of Jesus
She received heavenly strength and power.
Through which she conquered indeed.

Verse 21:

Man tormented in Alexandria
The Christians as in other places,
Plundered body, possessions, and goods.
Apolonia, a maiden tender,
When she gazed at the fire,
She sprang into it unhindered.
Symphoria said to her son,
Lay down your life with joy,
Christ, who rules in heaven's throne,
Will give you life eternal.
Saint Agatha said, death gives me joy,
The grain must be thrashed from the straw,
The soul separates from the body in heaven.

Verse 26:

Thalia spoke very fairly and eloquently,
If this life were the only one,
Who would willingly forsake it?
Since over there is an eternal one,
Which Jesus Christ reveals to us,
So will we despise this one.
Romanus said, Though I be deprived
Of everything I have on earth,
Yet the one in whom I believe
Can no way be taken from me.
Dorothea was also prepared
To die rather than that she
Would follow the tyrant's decree.

Verse 27:

Saint Agnes, thirteen years old,
In Rome a lovely maiden was,
Through dying she found life.
To the ruthless tyrant spoke the noble maiden:
With Christ I remain undaunted,
To him I have committed myself;
Your gods are only elements
That man through fire must make;
Whoever acknowledges them as his God
Will be swallowed by the jaws of hell.
My God lives not in wood or stone,
Nor in outward form,
Heaven He has possessed.

Song number 5 of the Ausbund was written by George Blaurock, a leader of the Anabaptists, who was burned at the stake in the Tyrol in 1529.

1. God holds a righteous judgment
And no man may break it,
Whoever does not do His will,
His sentence will He declare.

2. Merciful are You, O Lord, and good,
Graciously You may be found.
Whoever does Your will here on earth
You acknowledge as your children.
3. Through Christ we give praise and thanks
For all His goodness,
That He throughout our life
From sin will protect us.
4. The sinner brings upon himself a severe judgment,
He will surely be sorry,
From sin he will not depart,
God warns him with threats.
32. When the King will break forth
With the sound of the trumpets,
Then with Him will be taken
All the chosen ones.
33. Therefore Zion, thou holy Church,
Behold what you have received,
That keep and abstain from sin,
Then you will attain the crown.
Amen.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Songs taken from
Songs of the Ausbund

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

J. H. Moore
The Copper Kettle

When I was about seven-
teen years old, my parents
moved onto a farm in Adams
County, this State, located about
fifteen miles from where the
main body of the Brethren lived.
In course of time, arrangements
were made to have preaching at

a schoolhouse in our neighborhood, every eight weeks. The appointments were usually filed by Bro. David Wolf, son of Eld. Geo. Wolf, or Bro. Wm. Lirely. Both were good preachers, and usually drew large congregations.

In the fall, when the apples began to ripen, my parents, Virginia-like, concluded that we ought to make some apple-butter, hence made inquiry for a copper kettle, but none was to be found, as the people in that part of the country knew nothing about making apple-butter. Our meeting-day came, - we all attended, - and Bro. David Wolf preached. After meeting, one of the neighbors told my father that there was a Pennsylvanian living among the hills, about ten miles to the south, who had a large copper kettle that might possibly be had if we would send for it.

Early on Monday morning I was started out with a team, in search of the copper kettle. The route was not only rough, but difficult to follow. Finally I drove up to the well-improved little farm that had been pointed out as the place where the Pennsylvanian lived. Walking into the neatly-kept yard, I met a pleasant-look-

ing gentleman, and asked if his name was _____. He replied in the affirmative. I then told him where I lived, and what I had come for, assuring him we would take good care of the kettle, and pay him for the use of it. He said that he had a large copper kettle, but would neither lend nor hire it out, as such a vessel cost a good deal and was very easily spoiled. He stated that his had been injured a time or two, and he had concluded not to let it go any more.

Feeling the disappointment keenly, I apologized as best I could for troubling him, at the same time telling him that while at meeting the day before, one of our neighbors had told my father of the kettle, and that was the way we came to know of it. He asked me where we attended meeting. I told him at the Bush schoolhouse, three miles east of Payson. "Who preached?" says he. I answered, "David Wolf." "To what church does he belong?" he eagerly inquired. "The Dunkard church," says I. "Is your father a member of the Dunkard church?" he asked. I told him he was. "All right," says he, "he can have the kettle, and is perfectly welcome to it. I used to know these fine people back in Penn-

sylvania, where I came from, and they were always honest, and would take good care of things." I was soon on my way home with the large copper kettle in the wagon, feeling wonderfully elated over the result of my trip.

On reaching home I told the whole story to my parents, and they felt not only a little proud of the good name the church had, but showed a decided appreciation for the way I had approached the Pennsylvanian and obtained the use of his kettle. The reader may rest assured that my parents did their best to preserve the good name of the Brethren church, and the kettle was returned in fine condition, with a sample of the kind of

apple-butter we knew how to make.

It is encouraging to note what a good impression honesty and uprightness had made on the mind of the man, who had moved from Pennsylvania twenty years before. He had not forgotten the Brethren and their honesty. That is the kind of a religion that takes with thinking people. The borrowing of the copper kettle was a small affair, yet it brought to light the effects of honest living upon the part of others. That man had confidence in the very name "Dunkard." He thought that every one who belonged to the church was all right, and could be trusted. We trust he never had occasion to change his opinion.

MARRIAGE

AUNGST-WEAVER

Sis. Laura Aungst, daughter of Bro. and Sis. David Aungst and T. Scott Weaver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Weaver were united in marriage on August 26, 2006 at home. They are residing at 667 Monroe Valley Drive, Fredericksburg, PA 17026

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Keith Bailey is Cottage #2, 1010 Taywood Road, Englewood, Ohio 45322. His telephone number is 937-832-8186.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation plans to have a Lovefeast

the weekend of November 3 through 5. Services will begin Friday evening at 7:00. Saturday, Examination Service at 5:00 with Communion following. Sunday morning breakfast will be served at 8:00. Sunday School starts at 9:30 with preaching following. Bro. Paul David Skiles will be the speaker for the weekend. We invite all to come and worship with us.

Sister Carol Walker, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation is looking forward to their Revival Meetings, which start Sunday evening, November 12 through November 19, the Lord willing. There will be a Lovefeast service on Saturday, November 18. Elder Fred Pifer will be the evangelist. All are invited to come and worship with us.

Sister Marie Sines, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 2006

Dec. 3 – False Teachers Known by Their Fruits – II Peter 2:12-22

1. Make a list of the fruits of false teachers.
2. What do we learn from Balaam's life that would caution us today about false teachings?

Dec. 10 – More Spiritual Math: 1 to 1000 and 1000 to 1 Ratios - II Peter 3:1-9

1. Describe "willful" ignorance.
2. In God's eternity, is there any distinction between a thousand years and a day? And does the eternal God ever have a need to hurry or delay?

Dec. 17 – Knowing the End Ought to Make a Difference – II Peter 3:10-18

1. If the study of end time prophecy does not prompt us to serious Christian living and holy conversation, has it been beneficial in the way the Lord intended?
2. What is your view of the new heaven and the new earth?

Dec. 24 – The Birth of Christ – I John 1:1-4

1. Are we still, as the shepherds were, glorifying and praising God for all that He has revealed through Jesus the Christ?
2. What are the parallels between I John 1:1-4 and the first chapter of the Gospel of John?

Dec. 31 – How to End The Old and Begin The New Year – Psalm 136

1. In our giving of thanks unto the Lord do we express specific things or speak only in generalities?
2. If I fail to often express thanks for God's mercy, what might that say about myself and my perspective of God?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 2006

Dec. 3 – A Covenant Lesson – Matt. 8:19-22, Luke 9:59-62, Acts 24:24-27

1. In the call to follow Jesus and be His disciples, will all of life's circumstances ever be just right from a human perspective?
2. What is the danger of waiting for a convenient reason to get our hearts right with God?

Dec. 10 – The Penitent Thief – Luke 23:38-47

1. What is the meaning of the word “malefactor”?
2. What are the clear contrasts between the penitent and impenitent thieves?

Dec. 17 – God’s People – Ex. 19:5, Deut. 14:1-2, Luke 1:13-17, Titus 2:11-14

1. What does the Lord mean when He says His people are to be a peculiar people and a peculiar treasure unto Himself?
2. Under the Old Covenant, Israel was God’s chosen people. Who are God’s chosen people under the “New Covenant”?

Dec. 24 – The Christmas Story – Luke 2:1-20, Matt. 2:1-11

1. Why couldn’t Jesus have been born in Nazareth?
2. What part did Cesar Augustus play in the fulfillment of the prophecy?

Dec. 31 – Out With The Old, In With The New – Rev. 20:10-21:8

1. Describe what you know of the Great White Throne judgment and who will be there.
2. Who is it that will enjoy the new heaven and the new earth and will inherit all things?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXXIV

DECEMBER, 2006

NO. 12

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her Baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and meek, and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew:
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

-Cecil F. Alexander

IF YOU COULD SEE WHAT I SEE

Suppose for a few moments that you were a small mouse in a stable in Bethlehem. These moments would be a fantasy, but perhaps they would also be instructive. So for these few moments think what it would be like to be able to see what was going on but not be seen yourself. You would blend in very inconspicuously, no one would know you were there.

Life in the stable would be routine most of the time. There was hardly ever any excitement amongst the animals, which dwelt there. Occasionally people would come to look after the animals but they usually did not stay very long. Recently there seems to be more people in this little town of Bethlehem. There must be some event that is drawing

more than the usual number of people to this little town. What might be going on?

Scurrying around the stable, it is evident that there are more animals being boarded than normal. The noise in the street is louder than usual as more and more people come together. Many of the people seem glad to see each other, but there are some who are complaining about the high cost of the lodgings. The inn that is near the stable seems to have more customers than usual. Some of the people talk about the journeys they have taken to be here so they can be counted and taxed. They say they do not understand why everyone had to come back to Bethlehem in order to be counted but that is the decree of the Ro-

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man Emperor. The people are beginning to arrive by foot and on donkey from farther and farther away. Now people are coming from Galilee not just from Judea. As more people come the crowds in the streets become larger and noisier.

As you scurry around trying to figure out all of this commotion, you communicate with some of the mice who live in the inn. They tell you that they have never seen so many people jammed into that building. A wise mouse has to watch out or his tail may be stepped on. The children keep trying to chase and catch those who are unwary. Now there seems to be more activity in the stable. There are human voices. They are not interested in the animals lodged there. They are concerned about one young woman. She seems so tired and uncomfortable after the long journey from their home at Nazareth.

It is not long until there is even more activity surrounding this particular woman. There are hurried conversations. There are urgent directions given. There are words of encouragement. There is the smell and sound of blood and water being gushed on the floor. There are moans and groans. After one last push there

is a sense of relief, but there is a new sound. There is a new voice that is heard. It is the voice of a baby's crying. So this is what all the activity was about. A baby boy has been born.

This perhaps was not the first time a baby had been birthed in a stable, but there seems to be something special about this baby. The mother is giving her full attention to this small newborn, but she seems to be handling him with a special touch. There is something different about this baby.

As the moments go by and things begin to return to normal in the stable, at least, as normal as it can be in a stable where people are making their newborn's nursery out of a manger, other strange things begin to happen. There is the sound of singing just barely audible coming from some of the pastures that surround this little town. The singing seems to be extra special. It is not the usual chants and psalms that are usually heard around here. A short time after the singing dies away, there are more people coming to stable.

Several shepherds enter the stable. They tell of the angels appearing to them singing a message of great hope and

cheer. The angels glorified God as they told the shepherds of the birth of the long promised Messiah. They were told to go to Bethlehem where they would find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. They came, even though shepherds were not the most welcomed of people to this area. After all they were keepers of animals and often began to smell like their animals. But it was to them that the angels appeared not to the high and mighty. It was the shepherds who first heard and they came to worship.

Never has a mouse in the stable seen anything like this. The shepherds are excited and their words tumble one over another as they try to describe the message of the angels. Truly something great and beyond the mundane has happened here in the stable.

Joseph was so solicitous of the welfare of Mary and the baby. He was excited but there was something different about the way he handled the child and in how he looked at him. He did not act as if he were the real father of this child. The mother seems to be so very deep in thought, perhaps recalling the visit of the archangel to her, telling her what

a blessed event she would participate in. She wondered then what it all meant, now she could ponder what would happen to this baby she had so recently delivered.

She had been the willing handmaiden of the Lord, to conceive, carry and deliver this precious child into this world. Ahead of Him would be so many extraordinary events. He would teach, preach, heal, encourage and instruct those who would listen while He sojourned with them for a few years. Ultimately He would fulfill His Heavenly Father's purpose. He would be the perfect sacrificial Lamb, who would bear the sins of a lost and dying world of people.

He would die on the cross, be buried in the grave, but He would not remain there. He would arise to fulfill the purpose of His virgin birth in the stable in Bethlehem.

Would you have enjoyed being a mouse in that stable to see these events take place? More important than seeing those events is believing that He came to seek, to save, and to prepare you for service here and for a home with Him in Heaven. Merry Christmas!

M.C.Cook

A KING IS BORN

Maxine Surbey

Luke 2:10-14

The shepherd boy watched the leaping flames of the bonfire. Gold and yellow flecks darted above the burning wood and vanished in the crisp, clear air of the twilight. Several of the older shepherds were huddled near the fire and spoke in low tones to one another. Now and then, he could hear snatches of their conversation as they were discussing Scripture.

"What do you mean when you say you are looking for the Messiah? What good thing can come to us at this dark time?" "Be not bitter, my friend," said the other, "Does not the Scripture say that 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined!'" Isaiah 9:2.

"I will agree that our land is lying in darkness. We are certainly under bondage to the Romans, who know not judgment or justice. They have no sympathy for our Jewish faith. God has not spoken through one of His prophets for many, many years, yet you still look for the

Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel?"

"My friend, God is all powerful. His Word never fails. What He has promised that will He do. Events come to pass just as God has planned." "Does the Scripture record the place where this Messiah shall come?" "Yes, 'But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old from everlasting.'" Micah 5:2.

"Wonderful is your faith! Look yonder and see the humble houses of Bethlehem. Is it reasonable that such a common insignificant town will provide a king, who shall rule supreme over our nation?" "Even so. Is it not the humble, trusting people that our God has blessed? Was it not a slave boy Joseph, who was promoted ruler over the land of Egypt and saved his father's house from famine? Truly mighty are the ways of the Lord!"

The continuous murmur of

their voices lulled the shepherd boy to sleep. Suddenly he aroused. A great light shone round about them and the Angel of the Lord appeared. The shepherds were very much afraid. "And the Angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:10-14.

When the angels were gone back to heaven, the shepherds marveled at this great event. Quickly they went to Bethlehem to see this wonderful baby that was born. They found the child in a manger just like the angel had said. When they saw Him they fell down and worshipped Him. The shepherd boy lingered behind for one more glimpse of the child, then he turned and followed the older men, who were talking together earnestly. "A child, but yet a King," mur-

mured one. "Yea," said the other, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be none, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:6-7.

Many times the shepherds stopped to tell others the glad tidings. The song of the Angels seemed to linger on the air. "Glory to God in the highest — peace on earth, good will to men." God is no respecter of persons. All men regardless of race or color would be blessed. When they arrived back at the sheep fold, the flickering flames had died down to glowing embers. The Eastern sky was light with the first rays of the dawning day. A glad day and a great day, for it was the birthday of the King.

Selected from the
December 15, 1967 issue
of the Bible Monitor

JUST BEFORE THE DAWN

Just before the dawn is breaking
Rosy hues the sky is making,
There's a hush...all nature's waking...
Just before the dawn.

Just before the dawn is breaking
Pain is gone...there's glory making
Loved ones' spirits' angels taking...
Just before the dawn.

Just before the dawn is breaking
Even though our hearts are aching,
We are left our lives are shaking,
Just before the dawn.

Just before the dawn is breaking
Christ child born, prophetic waking,
Angels speak to shepherds' quakings...
Just before the dawn.

Just before the dawn is breaking
Jesus all our sins is taking,
In our heart conviction waking...
Just before the dawn.

Just before the dawn is breaking
Jesus burst death's bars a'quaking,
Death is vanquished, trust awaking...
Just before the dawn.

Just before the dawn is breaking
Free salvation for the taking,
Blessings come to our remaking...
Just before the dawn.

Just before the dawn is breaking
Ascending Jesus, promise making,
Of the Holy Spirit's waking...
Just before the dawn.

Just before Heaven's dawn is breaking
 King of Kings returns for taking,
 Awesome Spirit bodies waking...
 Just before the dawn.

Light springs forth as God is making
 'Round His throne the Saints are waking,
 The bride has supper by partaking...
 Heaven is the dawn!

-Sister Linda Cordrey

FOLLOWING A STAR - A STAR IS BORN

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." Matthew 2:1-2

"I shall see him, but not now. I shall behold him but not nigh; there shall come **a star out of Jacob**, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth." Numbers 24:17 (Sheth, an unknown race, perhaps the Moabites - figurative for evil.)

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, **and**

the day star arise in your hearts." II Peter 1:19

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and **the bright and morning star**." Revelation 22:16

There is much mystery and speculation concerning the wise men and the star they followed. Some explanations, such as being a comet or planet, we consider to be unacceptable. We can only speculate whom the wise men were, how many there were and where "the east" refers to. We, personally, believe the star they followed was a special creation of God for that divine purpose.

Much more important is "the Star" that they discovered. We would like to share five attributes

of this Star, not all of which can be found directly in the verses quoted.

Jesus Christ was the Star of righteous judgment. Satan introduced sin into the world and He was the only individual in a robe of flesh that could judge this sin. He was that Star that shined in a dark place.

Jesus Christ was the Star of peace. We live in a world that is full of war, hatred and division. At His birth the angels of Heaven declared, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." But where is this peace? Countries war against countries. Now nuclear war is becoming a threat. Many civil wars are going on. Even those of the same religion are fighting one another. Christianity seems to be doing no better. Is this peace only something in the future? We do not think so. Jesus Christ came to bring the light of peace into the soul of man. We believe those who possess this peace will follow the Prince of Peace into refusing to be a part of doing evil to others.

If you have made up your mind to do evil to anyone that would harm you or especially your family, we would urge you to take this to the Lord in seri-

ous prayer. We are not saying this is easy but Jesus never promised His followers the popular easy path.

Jesus Christ is the Star of joy. When the light of the Lord shines in our life the Bible says we have joy unspeakable and full of glory. This joy is associated with the peace in our hearts that comes when times seem to be hard. We can also have this joy in times of worship. Though most Dunkards are not very emotional in their style of worship we can often feel the joy of the Lord in our song services.

Jesus Christ is the Star of hope. This goes right along with our peace and joy. Many sincere Christians are suffering serious illnesses. While we disagree with those who teach that the time of miracles is now passed, we are also not enthused with those who put their faith in signs and wonders. We just finished reading a book by an allegedly converted Muslim. It is not our intention to judge his sincerity or salvation. But he is associated with individuals who have questionable teachings, as well as proclaiming the pope to be a great man of God. God will judge his witness of mighty miracles including raising the

dead. But to us, our hope is in the will of God, no matter what the outcome.

In saying this, Jesus is the Star of assurance. We have the assurance that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose. We can have the assurance of a home in Heaven if we continue in the Faith.

Much will be said at this time of the year about the babe born in the manger and the happenings surrounding that event. Unlike some, we do not think this all bad. But let us never put such emphasis on this that we forget

that He died for our sins. We must not forget that He wants to be a part of our life each and every day. If we are not careful we may end up merely "following a star" in the place of "finding the Star!"

In conclusion, there are many stars of earthly fame that can take our thoughts, time and even devotion from the Star sent from Heaven. In many ways they are like the earthly distractions associated with this season of the year.

Brother James M. Hite
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IMMANUEL GOD WITH US

L. W. Beery

The time of year is swiftly approaching when we are reminded of one of the greatest events that ever took place on the face of the earth. It is a season of great rejoicing to Christian people; and well can we rejoice for all this wonderful event means to us. One can but wonder what the plight of the human family would now be were it not for the influence that Christ and His church has had in the world.

As we meditate upon the

birth of Christ and all it means to the human race words fail us in our efforts to explain it. Not because we do not appreciate what it means to us but we cannot in our limited use of language find words to express the depth of feelings in the soul. We believe that the apostle Paul was one that understood and appreciated what the birth of our Savior meant to him and he declared, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." Evidently

he felt it impossible to explain the meaning of this great gift from above, in its fullness.

The messages of the angels that announced the birth of our Savior give us great reason for rejoicing for they reveal some of the great truths concerning the Christ and His mission on earth. To the shepherds the angel declared, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11.) There is implied in this message the thought that the human family was lost and in dire need of a Savior. Investigation of the sacred writings on this matter reveal that this was the case and that humanity of itself was helpless. One of the sacred writers states it this way: "having no hope, and without God in the world." This being the condition, the birth of a Savior, one that could save the human family and bring them back to God was indeed an event of great importance.

There was so much back of this great gift to the world; love! Unmerited love! Infinite love! "The love of God to me; it brought my Savior from above,

to die on Calvary." "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The magnitude of sacrifice in the gift reveals the extent of love prompting it. John speaks of it in this way, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:9-10.)

At the annunciation of the birth of our Savior the angels stated some other truths that mean much to us. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will toward men." (Luke 2:13.) Our Savior brought peace to the earth; peace that passeth understanding. Jesus is the prince of peace and all men can have peace by faith in, and obedience to Him. We can have peace of mind, peace in the soul and be at peace with all men if we but accept and obey in faith believing, the gospel or doctrine of Christ.

He was indeed Immanuel; God with us. Jesus did and said

only that which pleased the Father. "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." Jno. 14:10.

"Jesus answered them, and said, my doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me." (John 7:16.) "Then said Jesus unto them, when ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath

taught me, I speak these things." (John 8:28.) "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak." (John 12:49.)

Such love! Such condescension! Such a salvation! An endless life! Why should we not rejoice?

Selected from the
December 15, 1936 issue
of the Bible Monitor

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Howard J. Surbey

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14.

The shepherds were watching their flocks when the Angel of the Lord came upon them with the message for all people, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Hardly had the angel delivered this message until she was joined with a multitude of angels or messengers. "Are they not all

ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Heb. 1:14.

Let us first notice the spirit of the messengers. They were praising God, in a way and manner that it was no question in the minds of the shepherds as to what they were doing or whether they were in earnest or not.

Now we come to the spirit of the message. "Glory to God in the highest." No question in their mind whether there is a God or not. No question in their mind where this God is at. Their

spirit was glory to him, praise, adoration, and honor.

How does our spirit compare this Christmas and how are we revealing it to God? How can we best praise and glorify Him? Are we able to use our voices or can we better put on a record, turn on the radio, exchange presents, and decorate with various colors of light and paper? Some may say, "I cannot sing or praise him in words," then what are we doing with the voices that God has given us? Are we satisfied to hire someone else to show our praise?

"On earth peace." I am convinced the first thought is Peace with God. "And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself: by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled." Col. 1:20-21. The plan of God to restore peace and reconciliation with man by the atonement of His first born Son on the cross. The individual who does not have peace with God cannot expect to live in peace.

However it goes farther than

this and includes peace among men. Zacharias, filled with the Holy Ghost, gave us this prophecy concerning this child that was born, "The dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78-79. Man has rejected this witness of the Holy Spirit and failed to regard it as light. Man refuses Christ's light to have peace with God and uses every other method he can think of to try to maintain peace with man on earth. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Matt. 6:10.

"Good will toward men." Do we have this spirit at Christmas time or any other time? "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." I John 4:8-9. Why are we so ignorant that, even when we realize that this spirit is best for us, we use every other method to try to reach it?

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now

if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Rom. 8:9. Oh that we might study and meditate more on his word so that we might know what is required of us to praise and give

glory to God and maintain peace and goodwill on earth.

Selected from the
December 15, 1946 issue
of the Bible Monitor

NO ROOM FOR THE PRECIOUS SAVIOUR?

J. F. Marks

It was prophesied long before the coming of Jesus Christ that men would not receive Him. He is more precious than any other gift given to earth and is not appreciated by many. He was a man of sorrow for sin and yet rejected of men, who needed His cleansing. "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7.

Soon after He came to earth a wicked king was seeking to destroy His life. In that day many did not realize the value of the precious Saviour. The blessed gift of God was given to earth. A long prophesied event of God was to bring joy to the world. There were many who never appreciated the precious blessings of God.

God has given His only be-

gotten Son for our redemption from sin. He was always willingly submissive and obedient to the heavenly Father. What manner of love God has bestowed upon us that He gave His only begotten Son to be sacrificed for our redemption. Christ was willing to lay down His life for sinful humanity.

When Christ was here many followed Him only, for the loaves and fishes and would never receive His spiritual blessings. There also were many who honored Him with their lips but their hearts were far from Him.

Do we have this condition today? Many seek only for earthly gain that is perishable. We are to put our affections upon things above. Many are putting earthly things before and above the eternal things of God. "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the

Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Rom. 8:9.

If Jesus is to enter in the heart it must be cleansed from sin. Jesus commanded what we should do. These things must be put away from our lives: pride, adultery, fornication, envy, hatred, lying, jealousy, covetousness and all manner of evil. Today many professing Christians are trying to serve two masters.

Jesus cannot enter or live within lives that are overcome and overflowing with sin. In the Day of Judgment many are going to meet disappointment, because they have not cleansed their lives from the works of iniquity. Lives of sin and evil do not possess the Christian or Christ-like spirit. He gave us an example to do as He has done, renounce Satan with all his pernicious ways and sinful pleasures of the world and possess all the fruits of the Spirit.

In our day many do not realize the value of a Saviour, who is more precious than all the silver and gold in this world. They have no room for His spirit to dwell in their lives. His grace is sufficient for us; His blood avails of cleansing power for the obe-

dient. "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." Matt. 10:22. He suffered and died for sinful humanity. He said, My peace I leave with you. Peace not as the world gives, but that which passeth all understanding and joy which the world cannot give. We sometimes sing, Let the dear Saviour come in, He will cleanse the heart from sin, keep Him no more out at the door. Yes, He is calling to hearts filled with sin for admission. What is our answer? If we let Him in, He will go with us through life and through the valley and shadow of death. Can we say, Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, Oh what a foretaste of glory divine?

When He was here upon earth many experienced His precious healing power, from the infirmities of the flesh. His power avails to cleanse and heal us from the infirmities of sin. "The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Rom. 8:16. Precious are those who are laid to rest in Christ Jesus, their works do follow them. He brought joy to the world and He will bring joy and peace into the lives of all true Christians. The lives of true

Christians are overflowing with truth and righteousness. For the grace of God, that brings salvation, hath appeared to all men. It flows freely. When Christ fed the five thousand He told them to gather up the fragments that nothing be lost. He was hated because He opposed the sinful ways of this world.

Many people are keeping the Saviour out of their hearts. Hearts that are occupied by Jesus develop lives that become like fountains of living water. He said, When I come again shall I find faith on earth. In the

Christian's life old things have passed away and all things have become new. When He was here they opposed Him because He opposed the evil way of life.

Are we among the faithful in Christ Jesus or are we letting Him bear the Cross alone? Is the Holy Spirit in our lives? No room in the inn, no room in hearts filled with sin, and no room for sin in Heaven.

Selected from the
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the Bible Monitor

TO LOVE MY NEIGHBOR

Matthew 22:37-40, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." In reading this passage, I found myself asking some questions. Is there any significance to the fact that the Lord used the singular form of "neighbor"? What does it mean to love my neighbor?

In Luke 10, Christ explained

that our neighbor is the person we encounter who needs help, in this case, physical help. I believe that when we give physical help we give spiritual help too; we help that person feel peace. But what about the person who is struggling emotionally or spiritually? How do I love that neighbor?

My first inclination used to be to tell them all that I believed they were doing wrong. If they would ask forgiveness and stop doing these certain things, then they would not have so much emotional pain. If they would rely on

Him to meet their needs and help them handle what they cannot control, this would bring less stress and more peace, more of God's miracles. Well, it sounds like a good plan. It's the one I followed for a long time, but it is not what God intends, nor is it a good plan.

God intends for me to show compassion. Compassion is to feel *sorry* for their suffering **and** have an urge to help ease the pain, not an urge to tell them what I believe they are doing wrong (unless they ask). As I read the examples in Scripture of compassion, I found none where Christ pointed out their sin. His compassion was always followed with an act of love: as in healing, forgiving, calling on others to help, or feeding by way of a miracle.

In Matthew 9:36-38 Jesus said He had compassion on the multitude because they had "fainted and were scattered abroad" as "sheep having no shepherd". Then He told His disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send laborers. In Matthew 15:22-28, a Canaanite (Gentile) woman came to Jesus and asked for a miracle concerning her daughter. Jesus healed the woman's daughter while say-

ing nothing to the woman about her sinful state.

I understand now that to love my neighbor as myself, I must acknowledge the sinful tendencies in me, even still, as I am acknowledging those tendencies in others. Or, I must **refuse to see the sin in both of us**. Once I realized that I had been harboring bitterness for years, I knew that I had not been in compliance with the Spirit on matters of the heart; things that the Church can not so easily see or change. I had seen bitterness in other people, but failed to acknowledge that it existed in my own heart.

I believe the Lord is calling each of us to understand the pain of our neighbor, to show compassion. We must acknowledge that we suffer, emotionally and spiritually, at times and have to call on God to help us. We ought to ask the Lord why that happens. If we can understand why we have tendencies to do (wrong) things, then we can better understand why our neighbor does. How much better it is to go to our struggling neighbor and say, "I see you are having a hard time right now. I'd like to tell you about a difficult time I went through and why it happened." They will hear those words with

their hearts. The person who hears with his heart gains something from the conversation.

After the Lord had helped me to understand all this, I still had the question about why He used the singular form of neighbor. Finally, the answer came. When I replaced the word "neighbour" with "neighbours", I didn't know what to say to help. Why? Because each person's struggles come for different reasons. I can relate specifically to only one person at a time! I can identify with one struggling person's pain and/or their sinful behavior by relating a similar struggle from my life, but I cannot do two at once. It's easier to speak to a group because it's less personal. A one-on-one conversation gets to the heart much quicker. It also allows a hug or another experience of love to be exchanged. They feel my compassion and I feel their pain because we are the only ones there.

The first of the two commandments that the law and prophets hang on is to love God with all my heart, soul, and mind. I believe part of loving God is to do the scariest of all things: to reveal the worst about myself, past and present, so that my struggling neighbor will know just

how much He has done for me. With the details, they will understand that we are all in the same "sinful boat" sailing on the open sea in need of the Heavenly Father for guidance day in and day out.

Do I love God? Yes. Do I love Him enough to love my neighbor as myself? Will I love him in spite of the ways he might hurt me? Will I purpose to reveal to them the ways I hurt other people? The ways in which I am capable of committing adultery? The ways in which I am most likely to let my anger cause me to sin? Do I love God enough to let myself be transparent and therefore show the glory of God by revealing just how much He does for me?

In Jude verses 22-23 we read, "And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire." God help me as I attempt to live out this new understanding of loving my neighbor by going to the depth of my own sin (stepping into a fire). It is the most difficult of all commands I have understood so far.

Sister Deena Andrews
21620 S. Countryside Dr.
Peculiar, MO 64078

FATHER'S HOUSE

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3

This is being written on August 10, 2006, a beautiful sunny day, although it clouded up and looked like rain as I was heading to the hospital to work around 2:30 P.M.

The scripture above was on my mind all evening, so much so that I quoted it to one of my patients in passing. It is one of the few scriptures that comes from my heart word for word without a mistake. Oh, how I long for this place called Heaven! How it pricks my heart to still be here!

The evening passed quickly, as we were very busy. Yet this feeling of melancholy, a homesickness for heaven, stuck with me the whole time. Upon arriving home I found out that a good and dear friend of mine had passed away: one who had trusted in the Lord and had

been an inspiration for twenty-five years. Yet another has joined that great cloud of witnesses. He cannot come to me, but I can go to him.

I do not like to use the personal pronoun "I" in writing that much but this essay is intensely personal. Not so long ago I was one of the young ones, now we long to walk the streets of gold with all those ahead of us. Day is dying in the west.

Oh, come Angel Band,
Come and around me stand;

Bear me away on your
snowy wings to my Eternal Home!

Those that have left us have finished their work upon this earth. They have risen to heights unknown by us mere mortals. We are promised by the Son of God, Jesus Christ, Himself that a place is being prepared for us. Praise His Holy Name! We cannot praise Him enough. We cannot show our love for Him to others enough!

A deep embarrassment comes over me when I realize how many times I have failed to own my Lord! Yet He has NEVER FAILED ME. So often we are buffeted in this life and we do not take the Christlike

way. So often we lash out at those we were sent here to help. May God help us see our weakness and correct it before it is too late!

The memory of those who trod this way before us is for our encouragement. They encouraged us in life, and now they have run their race and are home. What a home it is! We can only imagine how it will be, but it is being prepared for us, with us in mind.

Before the above scripture was uttered, Jesus was talking to His disciples about going back to heaven. He would be leaving them behind, and they were justifiably troubled. But Jesus, in His infinite wisdom, gave them a wonderful hope.

Can we lay any claim to this beautiful place by virtue of our name, or our position, or our ancestors? "I am Brother So-

and-so. My father and my grandfather were both elders in the church. I hold a high position. I have baptized so many. I have held so many meetings. Surely there is a place in heaven for me!" The fact is, we can only claim a place there by virtue of Jesus' precious blood, shed for us. II Corinthians 5:21 says, "For he (God) hath made him (Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." We can only get to Heaven through Christ, who purchased our passage.

"In my Father's house...." The prodigal said, after he came to himself, "I will arise and go to my Father," and he did just that. Jesus made it possible for us to approach God. He died, became sin for us, so that we may occupy the Holiest of Holies for all eternity with God.

To the promised home in glory,
To that land of blissful rest,
My redeemer's gone before me
To prepare a mansion blest.

He is fitting up my mansion,
Which eternally shall stand,
For my stay shall not be transient,
In that holy, happy land.

Pain nor sickness ne'er shall enter,
Grief nor woe my lot shall share,
But in that celestial center
I a crown of life shall wear.

Death itself shall than be vanquished;
And his sting shall be withdrawn;
Shout for gladness, O ye ransomed!
Hail with joy the rising morn.

Yes, there is rest over Jordan's waters,
Rest for such as from sin are free;
Rest for all who come to Jesus,
Rest for you and me.

Brethren Hymnal #567
Brother Lynn H. Miller

PATIENCE

Greetings in Jesus' name, from Kenya! I want to thank each of you that have prayed for the mission staff and myself here in Kenya. It means a lot and your prayers are felt. I also want to thank each one that has sent cards and notes of encouragement. They have often arrived at just the right time. We are able to live each day by God's grace. He gives us the strength for each day, to do what He has for us to do.

The topic of Patience came up as I was talking to one of the

natives. I was telling her how that in America it is hard to find people that are patient, especially when they are hungry. When people are hungry, they want to eat something now. When they want to go somewhere, they can get in their vehicle and get there soon. There is just so much hurry in America. It is hard for most people here in Kenya to comprehend that fast paced life. Here in Kenya, life is not nearly as fast paced.

There is a lot more preparation needed for the natives to

cook food. They first need to go gather kuni (firewood). Then they need to get a fire going to put the sufuria (cooking pan) on to cook whatever they are going to make. The sister I was talking to, said that it can take up to one hour to just make chai, from the time she gets the fire going until the chai is ready to drink. I can make chai in about ten minutes here on the stove. All this time the natives have to be patient.

I was brought to realize some spiritual applications to this subject of patience. In life, God allows us to go through struggles and difficult times to make us more like HIM. When we are in those difficult times, it is hard (at least for me) to be patient and allow God to work in our lives. When problems come, in my nature, I want God to solve these problems NOW. I don't like to have patience and allow God to work in HIS time. During my time

here in Kenya, I have experienced the blessings of being patient and how times just became harder when I was not patient.

God is very patient and longsuffering to all of mankind. When we fail Him, He doesn't just strike us dead. I am very thankful that my God is patient with me, for I do not deserve His patience. When I think about this, it can help me be patient with my fellow Christians and others. So when you feel like you are in God's refining pot, don't try "jumping out". Remember when we are tried and purified we will come forth as gold. God is always with us when we are going through hard times. He can give us the strength to be patient and courage to press on as He is refining us.

In HIM,
Sister Lucy Kasza

LEGACY

II Timothy 1:5, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and in thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

What legacy are we giving to our children? When most people think of a legacy they think of houses and lands and large amounts of money. Believers in Christ should not be so

narrow-minded. Though most of us will have some material things to leave our children, the Bible emphasis will forever be upon spiritual things.

Timothy was a very young man for all the responsibility that he had been given. Yet he bore it well because of the legacy that he had received from his mother and grandmother.

Many of our brothers and sisters in the faith speak fondly of their Godly forefathers and the strong influence that they had. It is indeed a blessing to have those that you can point to as a bearer of "unfeigned faith". This is the faith that leads people to Christ and keeps them in the Saviour's loving care.

Someone may say, "Other people cannot save us, we can only save ourselves." This is true. But we are speaking here of a Godly influence. It is not hard to understand the effect of a poor or ungodly influence on a person, and the world sees it. But often they do not see a good influence, or give credit when it is due. But there are still many in this world that desire to steer their children in a Godly direction, knowing that the right kind of influence is very important.

How many of you reading

this have had Godly parents or grandparents? Thank God for them. Remember the influence that they had on you, and most of all, ask God to help you be the best Christian that you can be for your children and grandchildren.

We can leave all kinds of material things to our children, but by having so much left over it is plain that most of us spend too much time in the pursuit of the dollar. If we were right in our stewardship we would give more to the Lord so that there would be none to fight over when we are gone.

But most of all we need to pray. Communication with God is the most important thing. It then follows that we need to be obedient to what we hear from God. God wants us to be an influence for good.

The Bible does not tell us whether or not Lois or Eunice had jobs, or even "careers". My guess is that they did not. Their job was to care for Timothy, and their career was to show the love of God to him in such a way that the influence would be felt clear to the year 2006. How far are we reaching?

Brother Lynn H. Miller

BIBLE STORY**GOD REMEMBERS NOAH**

Gen. 8:1-19

Noah and his family with the animals and birds were safe in the big boat that he had built. There was water everywhere. After forty days it stopped raining but the water remained above the highest mountains for one hundred and fifty days. But the ark floated on the water. Then God remembered Noah and every living thing and caused a wind to pass over the earth to dry up the water. And the wind blew and blew. I just wonder how Noah and all the animals got along. When the wind blows hard it makes the water rough and a boat will rock around and go up and down and sometimes people get seasick. The Bible doesn't say that Noah had any trouble that way.

At last the ark came to a stop. It had struck ground and rested on a high mountain called Ararat. Then after forty days more Noah opened the window of the ark and sent a raven out of it. A raven is a big black bird like a crow and can live on dead animals. It flew back and forth to the ark until the waters were dried enough for it to live on land. Noah also sent out a dove but it couldn't find a

dry place so returned to the ark and Noah took hold of her and pulled the dove back into the ark. Then he waited another seven days and sent her out again. This time the dove returned with an olive leaf that she had picked off a tree so Noah knew the water was drying up. Once again Noah sent forth the dove and this time she didn't return.

When Noah was six hundred and one years old, exactly a year according to our calendar from the time he entered the ark, he opened up the ark and looked out. The water was gone and the earth was dry. How good it seemed to Noah and his family to see the ground again.

And God told Noah to go out from the ark and take his wife, and his sons and their wives and let all the animals out. Can't you just see the animals going in every direction, running and jumping, and feeling so good?

God had cleansed the earth and now everything could start over again. God had remembered Noah because he was a righteous man.

Brother Rudy Cover

THANKSGIVING

Lord, we pause and take this day
To be thankful and to pray
For harvest's bounty, and freedom's way...
For families near and far away.

We lift up those who are sick today,
We ask for healing as they lay
On beds of illness, their fears allay...
We bow to your will, and final say.

We're thankful for our children's rays
Of light, their innocence portrays,
Lord, keep them in your truth and stay...
That they might live to never stray.

Thank you, Lord for leaders...they
Preach the Word without delay
Always there to lift dismay,
To pray and ease a dreary day.

Thank you, Jesus, who died that day
All our sins His death cleared away
He will come back as King for all 'aye
The Lord of Lords his banner display!

Are we thankful every day...
To love and work and rest and play
To let His grace surround our ways?
God loves to hear our highest praise!

-Sister Linda Cordrey

ALL FOR JESUS

The following was found among the papers of an African minister after he had been martyred for the cause of Christ:

"I am a part of the fellowship

of the unchained. The die has been cast; I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His; I will not look back, let up, slow

down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I am done and finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

"I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, products, or popularity. I do not need to be first or tops or recognized, or praised, or rewarded. I live by Faith. I lean on His presence, I walk by patience, I lift by prayer, and I labor by the Holy Spirit's power. My faith is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven.

"My road may be narrow and my way rough, my companions may be few, but my Guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, or

hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I will not give up, shut up, let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

"I am a disciple of Jesus. I must give until I drop, preach until all know, work until He comes. When He does come for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me, for my colors will be clear."

To be totally committed to Christ is to give up all that comes from sin and self and lay it on the altar. Jesus did that much for us and more when He willingly gave up His life for us.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:5

Brother Lynn H. Miller

MARRIAGE

HAWBAKER – HECKMAN

Sister Mary Hawbaker, daughter of Nelson and Laura Hawbaker, and Brother Caleb Heckman, son of David and Ada Heckman, were united in marriage on August 5, 2006 at the Dallas Center, Iowa Dunkard Brethren Church. Their address is 8559 Brandts Church Road, St. Thomas, Pennsylvania, 17252.

NEWS ITEMS

YEARLY UPDATE

Presiding Elders or their designates should inform the Editor of any changes in the Ministerial or Deacons lists or other information concerning their congregations that appears in the February issue. Please inform the Editor by December 20, 2006. Thank you.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Walnut Grove Congregation near Taneytown, Maryland enjoyed the messages brought to us by Bro. Robert Lehigh. His theme was "Power Under Harness". He taught us about the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 – Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance. On Sunday we definitely felt Love, Joy and Peace. All those who were there gave our meager group a helping hand, for which we were most thankful. I know we all felt the presence of the Lord as we surrounded the Lovefeast table for the first time in four years. Again we were thankful for all that stayed. Thirty-two surrounded the tables. Bro. Bob's Theme song sure fit the occasion – "Spirit of the Living God".

Sister Sarah Musselman, Cor.

THANK YOU

The church at Chesubet is almost complete. We recently held the first service in that church. The congregation was very excited and glad to be in their own church building. They have worked very hard together to build this church. In Brother Peter's opening he said, "We were in the desert and now we are in Canaan." They asked if we would thank all of you Americans who helped make it possible. Thank you for contributing financially and for your prayers for the mission here in Africa.

Sister Jennifer Martin

CARD SHOWER

Wishing you an anniversary of remembering special times you've shared. Wishing you many more years of love. God Bless Your Happy Day! Bro. Warren and Sis. Luella Smith are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on November 21. Their family would like to invite you to help them celebrate with a card shower. Address: Warren and Luella Smith, 33720 Rd 26, McClave, CO 81057

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 2007

Jan. 7 – Daniel 1

1. Why did the Lord give Judah into the hand of the enemy?
2. Why did the king desire to develop the most favorable among the enemy to stand before him?

Jan. 14 – Daniel 2:1-18

1. What were the reasons behind the king's dreams? Were the dreams natural, supernatural, of God or of Satan?
2. Did Daniel have an "inside" position with the king at this time?

Jan. 21 – Daniel 2:19-35

1. What is significant about this dream being given in this era of time?
2. Does God send dreams and reveal secrets in similar manner today?

Jan. 28 – Daniel 2:36-49

1. Explain the stone in verse 45.
2. Is the content of the dream alive today and any portion thereof yet to be fulfilled?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 2007

Jan. 7 – Our Birthright – Gen. 25:27-34, John 7:38-39, 8:27-28,
Heb. 11:24-26, 12:16-17

1. How do teens today suffer affliction for their faith?
2. What results when one gives in to the pleasures of sin for a season?

Jan. 14 – The New Birth – Ezek. 36:26-28, John 1:13, 3:3-8, Rom.
6:4-6, II Cor. 5:17, I Pet. 1:23-25

1. Explain how we become new creatures in Christ.
2. What is the difference between corruptible and incorruptible seed?

Jan. 21 – Baptism of Christ – Matt. 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-23, John 1:29-38

1. What would you have felt like if you had been John and Jesus asked you to baptize Him?
2. How do you feel when God asks you to do something for Him today?

Jan. 28 – Christian Perfection – Gen. 17:1-2, Matt. 5:4-8, 19:21-30, II Cor. 13:11, James 1:4, 2:21-24, 3:2, Heb. 6:11

1. How do we strive for and obtain Christian Perfection?
2. How many earthly possessions can a man have and still please God?

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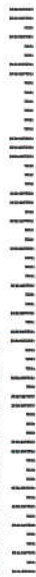
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